www.saipantribune.com THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2021 Volume XXXI, Issue No. 234 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Real ID enforcement in 2023

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

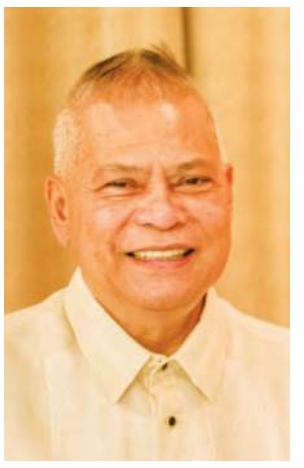
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended to May 2023 the deadline to fully enforce Real IDs for domestic travel in the continental United States, the CNMI, and Guam.

That means all U.S. citizen and qualified alien air travelers going to the U.S. mainland,

See REAL on Page 4

THANKSGIVING FEAST
Northern Marianas Technical Institute staff pack up the Thanksgiving meals NMTI's culinary program prepared and donated to nonprofit organizations Karidat Social Services and Guma Esperanza on Tuesday. The Thanksgiving spread included large pans of mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, stuffing, homemade cranberry sauce, and turkeys, courtesy of Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan). Pictured leftmost is NMTI chief executive officer Jodina Attao.
JOSHUA SANTOS

Glicerio 'Eli' Arago, 69



Glicerio "Eli" Del Mundo Arago, who was the honorary consul of the Philippines in the CNMI, the publisher of *Saipan Tribune*, and was senior vice president of TanHoldings Corp., passed away peacefully yesterday at the Guam Regional Medical City in Guam. He was 69 years old.

Arago joined his creator yesterday at 10:22am, a day before Thanksgiving and

See ARAGO on Page 4

UGC will improve quality of life on Tinian

TRASH TALK
By EDWIN ALDAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

In last week's column, Hon. Mayor Efraim M. Atalig shared that one of the greatest challenges in Rota's solid waste collection and disposal processes is the island's lack of commercial trash collection services. Unfortunately, the same is true for our beautiful island of Tinian.

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Torres addresses JGO allegations about excessive utility billings. PAGE 2
NMI at forefront of strategy to transform recycling in US. PAGE 7

AT A GLANCE

As of 8:25pm, Nov. 24, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **85.1%**

Days since last community transmission: **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	33,469
Fully Vaccinated:	30,329
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,950
Fully Vaccinated:	4,762
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	975

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	19,117	20	19,137
Recovered	17,123	37	17,160
Active	1,694	20	1,714
Deaths	263	0	263

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	572	0	572
Traced via Travel Screening	266	0	266
Traced via Community Screening	306	0	306
Deaths	3	0	3

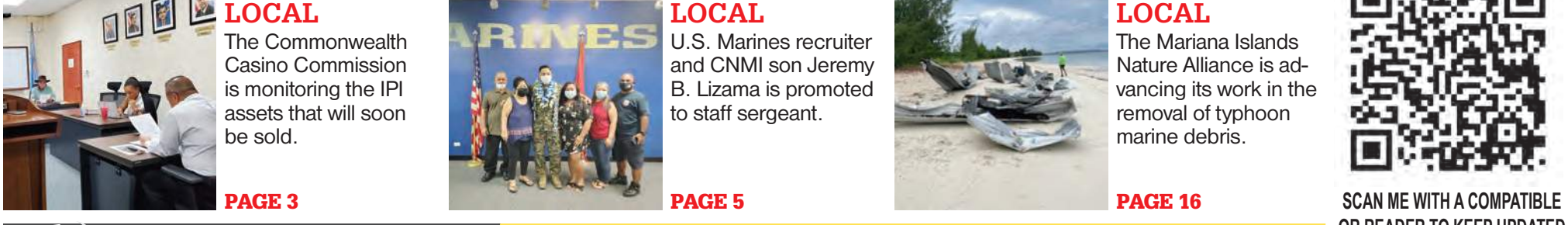
Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
Red: Least safe
Orange
Yellow
Blue
Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

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Local

Torres faces JGO allegations about excessive utility billings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said he has decided to end the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's "political show" by addressing JGO's allegations regarding power and water billings from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. associated with his private house in As Teo that is classified as the governor's official residence.

"Our people deserve the truth," said Torres in a sit-down interview with KKMP's Gary Sword. The video of the interview was forwarded to the media yesterday and posted in the governor's Facebook account.

The interview is the first in a series of videos where the governor said he will provide factual information directly from him in responses to the JGO's allegations.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan).

Torres said he has decided to end this "political show" before the holidays so they can all get back to doing "real work for the people."

He said he has publicly called for months for the JGO Committee to send him their concerns so he can reply with the truth. Torres sent a strongly-worded letter to Babauta last Nov. 8 with a one-week deadline requesting for questions in writing. Yet two weeks after the letter was sent, he has yet to receive any response from the JGO.

"I look forward to sharing more of my responses to these political and abusive allegations to the people directly in the coming weeks," the governor said.

Citing the history of how the residence of the governor and lieutenant governor became a state residence, Torres said that in early 2000, the Department of Public Works condemned the governor's official residence on Capital Hill.

Torres

Since then, he said, every governor and lieutenant governor would stay at their own homes and the government would pay for their utility—power and water.

On the issue of water usage, Torres said at one month he saw a billing that was extremely high so he was concerned about the billing and called CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho. He said he asked Camacho to look into the high water billing then asked him to make sure that they put a separate water meter, and treat him fairly in calculating that each meter is charged the right way, meaning there is a government rate and there is a residential rate.

"So since then, upon my request, they have separated the water meter from the main house and to the other meter," said Torres, adding that the As Teo farm has its own water meter and his own house has its own water meter.

The governor emphasized that the government has not paid a penny on the private property that has a piggery because that comes out from the other account.

On the issue of him paying cash on occasion for his CUC bill—which the JGO had described as unusual—Torres said that CUC had given him an ultimatum that if he does not pay his billing of $6,000, they will disconnect him.

"So obviously I don't have the money and so I asked my loved ones for help and so I got the money and went in and paid for it," he said.

Torres said he got reimbursed after that because the government was supposed to take that account, but since they have not changed the account, he ended up paying for the billing itself.

As for the JGO's insinuation that he got preferential treatment at CUC, Torres said it's not true, as there's a case when they called and told him if he does not pay $6,000 they will disconnect his power.

The governor noted that Camacho testified before the JGO Committee, stating that he (Torres) called him to the residence to make sure that the accountability and transparency on the water meter and utility meter is done right and is calculated and charged the right way.

"None of the account on the private account has been paid by the government," he said.

As for CUC's water billing in the total amount of $177,278, which the JGO called unusual and excessive, Torres said that was exactly the month when he called Camacho after he saw the unusual billing of $16,000-plus.

The governor said he knows it's unusual to rack up that amount in one month so he called Camacho to fix the account and make sure to charge the private account as residential over a government account.

"So since then, it's been up-to-date and has been addressed accordingly and we have no issues since then," he said.

Torres also explained about a utility account registered to his sister, Julie Marie Torres, that was paid in the amount of $36,069 by the government for the power usage during the period of January 2015 and September. 2018.

Torres said that his sister, Julie Marie, used to live in that Koblerville house, so her name was on the billing. He said when he won as lieutenant governor and moved in, CUC said that he has two choices—either to disconnect or have it under his name and then charge him a reconnection fee, or just submit a letter from his sister authorizing him to use the Koblerville house under her name with authorization.

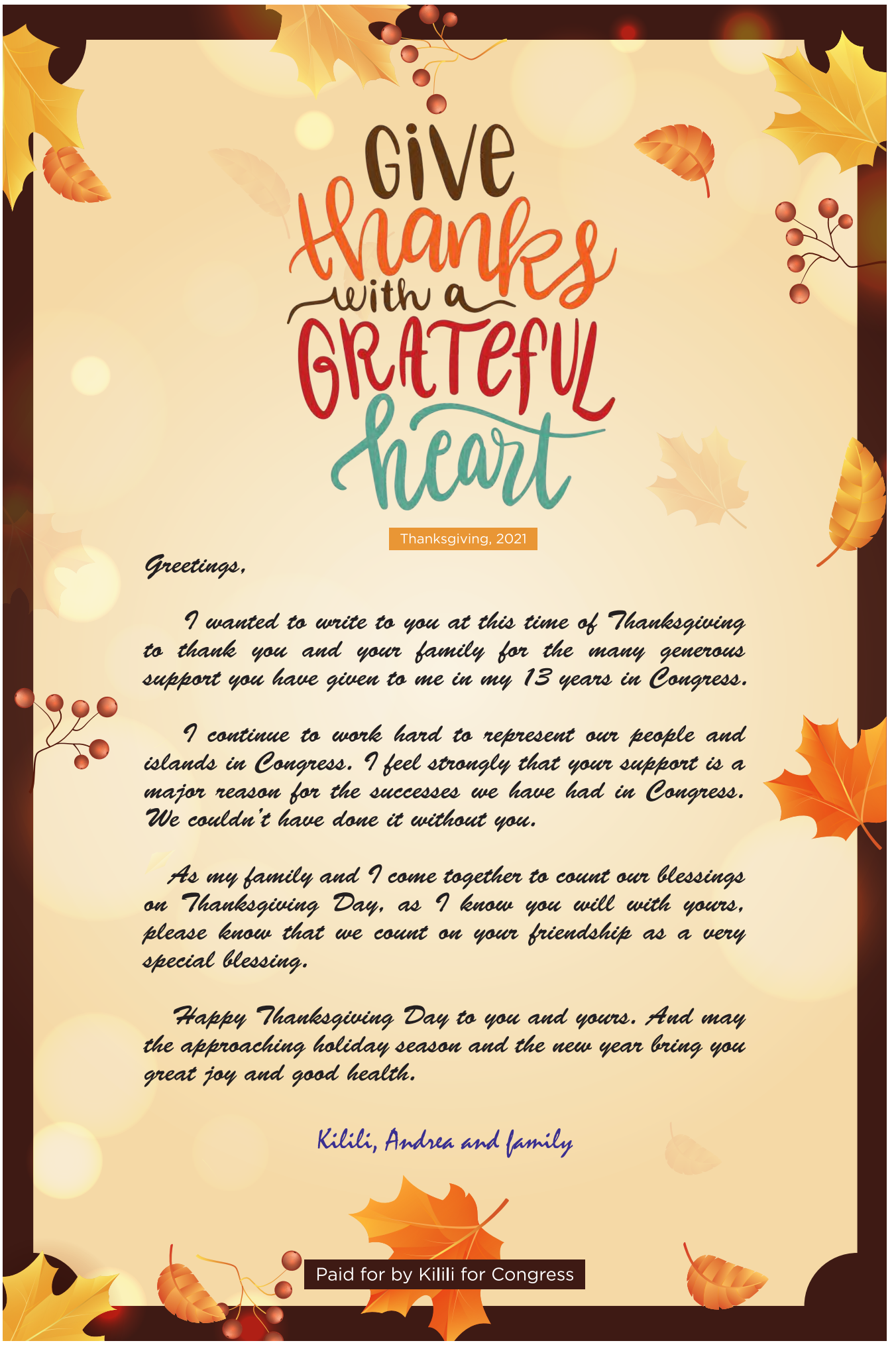
"So we have that on record—that she gave me the authorization to stay. So since then, I was staying in the house, not my sister. It was me and my kids and my family," he said.

Torres said that's why CUC was billing that residence to his sister because his sister gave him authorization to live there. "Her name was in the account prior to me moving in, which is the reason why her name was in the account," said the governor.

Torres also explained about JGO's showing of a sample of his CUC bill in the amount of $16,949, which covered March 2019 to April 2019, of which the total electric charge was $1,619 and the water charges were $15,309. The total number of kilowatt hours used at the Torres residence was 5,004 kilowatt hours and the total water consumed was 263,679 gallons in one month.

Torres said there's no way he consumed that much water so it's the same situation when he called CUC to make sure that the account is charged the right way.

"We addressed that issue. It's the same issue that the government has not paid a penny more than the residential rate, the usage that we use here," he said.


Give thanks with a grateful heart
Thanksgiving, 2021
Greetings,
I wanted to write to you at this time of Thanksgiving to thank you and your family for the many generous support you have given to me in my 13 years in Congress.
I continue to work hard to represent our people and islands in Congress. I feel strongly that your support is a major reason for the successes we have had in Congress. We couldn't have done it without you.
As my family and I come together to count our blessings on Thanksgiving Day, as I know you will with yours, please know that we count on your friendship as a very special blessing.
Happy Thanksgiving Day to you and yours. And may the approaching holiday season and the new year bring you great joy and good health.
Kilili, Andrea and family
Paid for by Kilili for Congress

CCC monitoring IPI's gaming assets that will be auctioned

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom said yesterday that they are monitoring the movements involving Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's gaming assets that will soon be auctioned.

In his report during the CCC board's meeting at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Yeom said he, the Information Technology team, together with the Enforcement and Investigations team, have been communicating with Clear Management Ltd. to collectively manage the movement of these IPI assets as carefully as possible leading up to the auctions.

Clear Management Ltd. was appointed as receiver by the U.S. District Court for the NMI last month after IPI was ordered to pay $2.1 million to USA Fanter Corp. for construction work at IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan, Saipan.

Clear Management's first of six auctions to sell IPI's gaming equipment will be held this Tuesday, Nov. 30.

Yeom said they will be tracking all of the IPI items that are sold through these auctions to identify to whom they are sold to by acquiring copies of all of the bill of sales.

"By doing so, we can mitigate some of the unlicensed business applications in this jurisdiction as much as possible," Yeom said.

He said, though, that they just recently learned that IPI has asked the District Court to vacate the receivership. Apparently, Yeom said, IPI has come up with the $2 million it owes USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. and wants the court to set aside/cancel this receivership/writ of execution.

Yeom is referring to IPI's filing of a motion before the federal court to vacate the receivership decision and terminate the limited receiver.

In the alternative, IPI asked the court to stay or suspend the proceedings until the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit resolves IPI's appeal.

IPI proposed, instead of auctions, to place more than $2 million in a restricted account controlled by the court to secure USA Fanter's judgment amount of $2,089,345.

The court set to hear IPI's motion tomorrow, Friday.

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Gratitude offers us a direct connection with the powers above. Today, let us remember that no matter how turbulent and difficult our lives may feel, we can always find something to be thankful for.
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J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED
JOETEN ACE HARDWARE
JOETEN SUPERSTORE
JOETEN DAIDAI
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Latte Café
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Marianas Management Corporation

Downward trend in fuel prices continues

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI continues to see a downward trend in fuel prices, with local oil companies dropping their prices another 10 cents.

In over a week, the CNMI saw another rollback in oil prices after weeks of continuous increases.

Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead yesterday in the reduction of gas prices, with its Extra fuel dropping from $ 5.06 a gallon to $4.96. Mobil also dropped its Supreme fuel from $5.51 to $5.41 while its diesel rolled back from $5.33 a gallon to $5.23.

Shell Marianas has yet to reduce its prices as of 6:30pm press time but both oil companies typically mirror each other's price changes, so Shell is expected to impose the same reduction today.

A 46-year-old man who was filling up his tank yesterday afternoon said he can finally fill up his tank below $50. However, he was still unhappy about it because of the recent COVID-19 outbreak in the CNMI.

"I feel like jobs will start to close again soon. We're already seeing construction companies close due to this recent outbreak. We might have to stay home again like last year and we won't really need to fill up gas as much," he said.

The passenger of the man, a 36-year-old woman, said it might not matter because the trend won't last.

"I think they're just giving us a little relief before they hike it back up maybe another 15 cents. We've all seen this before. Now COVID-19 is infecting so many people, we might be asked to home quarantine again or our jobs might ask us to work remotely. Everything is so uncertain. But all we can do is gas up as much as we can while the gas is still relatively low," she said.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has yet to announce whether they, too, will lower the Fuel Adjustment Charge due to the decrease in fuel prices. As of Nov. 1, the FAC went up from $0.19355 per kWh to $0.23296 per kWh.

District court releases over $5M to former IPI contractor

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted the request of former Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC contractor Pacific Rim Land Development LLC to release over $5 million that an IPI investor had deposited with the court.

In her order last Friday, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Pacific Rim's request to release the $5.59 million that was being held in an investment portfolio consisting of short-term U.S. government bonds with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.

However, as of the date of the order, the court only released $5.525 million to Pacific Rim.

The remaining funds remain in the account until further order from the court.

"As for the remaining amounts in the Merrill Lynch account, those amounts shall be released to Thompson Law LLC Trust account and shall remain in such account until further order of the court regarding the costs, fees, interest, and/or damages because of the delay on payment of the judgment," she said.

Manglona ordered Pacific Rim, through its lawyer, Colin Thompson, to file a petition no later than Friday, Nov. 26, detailing its entitlement to any amounts for post-judgment costs, fees, and/or interest.

The District Court judge ordered the parties to return to court for a hearing on the matter on Dec. 10 at 11am.

The money that is being disputed in this case was provided by IPI investor Pacific International Property Management LLC for the purpose of securing a stay in a previous court order while IPI appealed the ruling or to pay on the judgment in the event Pacific Rim prevails in the appeal.

According to a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, Thompson filed the memorandum asking the district court to make its determination regarding the release of monies to Pacific Rim Last Nov. 16, because they had prevailed in a previous appeal filed by IPI.

IPI had filed an appeal on a previous court decision, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the district court's decision.

IPI filed the appeal seeking to postpone the summary judgment, saying it had not been able to conduct discovery on its affirmative defense of fraud in the inducement.

However, the District Court denied IPI's request, saying the casino investor failed to satisfy the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure.

IPI then appealed to the Ninth Circuit, which affirmed the district court's ruling last month.

ARAGO

From Page 1

just 27 days before what would have been his 70th birthday.

Arago died of complications from a stroke, according to a joint statement from the Philippine Honorary Consulate for the CNMI and the Philippine Consulate General Agaña, Guam.

"He was surrounded by family members, his consulate staff members, and close friends at the time of his passing shortly after 10am today at the Guam Regional Medical City," the statement said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres offered his condolences to Arago's family, friends, and colleagues and described him as a great friend and a true partner "in building a stronger and closely-knit Commonwealth with help of our Filipino community."

In honor of Arago's role as the Philippine government's representative in the CNMI, Torres directed that the flag of the Commonwealth and the United States be flown at half-staff in all public buildings, instrumentalities, and grounds within the Commonwealth until the day of Arago's interment.

Arago's remains will soon be flown from Guam to Saipan, which he considered his second home, having lived on Saipan for 35 years, before he is finally laid to rest in the Philippines. Further funeral announcements will be made by the Philippine Honorary Consulate to the CNMI and the Arago family.

"The Lord almighty has blessed our uncle with so much goodness in life that he shared them not only to us, his family, but to everyone whose lives were enriched by his generous heart and, most of all, the wisdom in life through his experiences, of his hard work, and love of life," the Arago family said in a statement.

In an internal email circulated within TanHoldings Corp., where Arago was a key executive and a pioneer employee, corporation president and CEO Jerry Tan said the Tan family, and the whole Luen Thai and TanHoldings group of companies are feeling "an immense sense of loss" with the sudden passing of Arago.

"He meant so much to so many within our organization as well as to thousands more of his countrymen," said Tan. "While so many of us knew Eli in different ways from the many different roles he played in our lives, we all share gratitude for having known him and carry the heaviest of hearts due to his passing. He will always be admired and remembered for his genuine kindness and generosity, his love for his family and loyalty to the company."

A news release from the Philippine Honorary Consulate to the CNMI described Arago as having lived a life devoted to service to his countrymen and as one of the very few accomplished Filipinos in the Asia-Pacific region. He was a recipient of the Bagong Bayani Award in 2000, one of just 10 to have been given the award among 7.5 million Filipinos working overseas that year.

Love for his compatriots

The rest of the Philippine Honorary Consulate to the CNMI statement said:

"Even with an incredibly successful life, Arago was there next to the many lives he helped with and cared for in so many ways. Family, close friends, and those who knew him well said this is because of his indefatigable love and genial disposition in life coming from his humble beginnings.

"Born and raised in Mabini, Batangas, in the southern province of the Philippines, Arago graduated college with top honors. Immediately, he was hired to work for one of the top Manila-based foreign firms, Richardson Merrell (Phils) Inc., and then for the Philippine National Bank prior to joining the largest private sector employer in the Pacific, TanHoldings Corp.

"He came to Saipan in 1986 to work for TanHoldings as an internal auditor. For 35 years, he served in various capacities and was the senior vice president and chief financial officer at the time of his passing. Arago also had various overseas assignments, in particular in Hong Kong, China, the Philippines, and California.

"Arago was also actively engaged in different activities involving both the Filipino and local communities. His desire to lead programs that help advance and protect the welfare of Filipino workers and residents on the islands and strengthen the Philippine and NMI relationship encouraged him to take on the challenge of being the Philippine honorary consul for the CNMI.

"He accepted the mantle of leading the Philippines consular mission in the CNMI during one of the islands most challenging times. He was appointed in 2015, three years after the Philippine Consulate General-Saipan closed its doors following the federalization of local immigration.

"He was reappointed twice over the six years that he served as honorary consul, with Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. reappointing him for a full second term effective Sept. 13, 2021, and to expire on June 30, 2024.

""It has been an honor to serve alongside…Arago. …We accepted his invitation to work alongside him… because we feel his genuine love to serve and help others," a statement of his core team members, Ulysses Torres Sabuco, Ariel Mariano, Annamae Adaza, and Mario Mayuga read.

""He is a hero to us; a hero to many Filipinos whom he not only served but also genuinely loved and cared for especially in times of need and difficulties," the Philippine Consulate to CNMI members added.

At the time of his passing, Arago was working on an initiative that he considered his "legacy project" in the CNMI: linking young Filipinos from various professions and disciplines with their counterparts in the U.S. mainland through a core program under the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. and two other principal organizations.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

RELATED NEWS

- Statement on the passing of honorary consul Arago. **PAGE 11**
- 'Eli made a tremendous impact to our community' **PAGE 11**
- 'A great friend to many of us in the CNMI' **PAGE 11**

REAL

From Page 1

Guam, or the CNMI will have more than two years to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license in order to be able to travel domestically.

According to the U.S Transpiration Security Administration's website, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Homeland Security has extended the REAL ID enforcement deadline from Oct. 1, 2021, to May 3, 2023.

As such, beginning May 3, 2023, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States.

According to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas, the COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted the United States and its territories' ability to issue REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards since most licensing agencies have been operating at limited capacity.

"Protecting the health, safety, and security of our communities is our top priority. As our country continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, extending the REAL ID full enforcement deadline will give states needed time to reopen their driver's licensing operations and ensure their residents can obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card," he said.

As one of the United States' territories, the CNMI must also be Real ID-compliant by May 2023.

By 2023, Customs and Borders Protection will only be accepting driver's licenses or Identification cards that are Real ID compliant, even for inter-island travel.

However, travelers without a Real ID must have an alternate form of government-issued photo ID including a U.S. passport, U.S. passport card, DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST), U.S. Department of Defense ID, permanent resident card, border crossing card, State-issued Enhanced Driver's License, Federally recognized, tribal-issued photo ID, or HSPD-12 PIV card.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Real IDs are only for U.S. citizens and qualified aliens, not for foreign workers. The Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicles officially started issuing Real IDs back in 2020.

Real ID cards are marked with a star at the top of the card.

Currently, the fee to transfer from a typical CNMI driver's license to a Real ID-compliant driver's license is $50. Individuals are required to bring a valid passport, original social security card or 1040 tax form, permanent resident card, and a proof of residence with your name and mailing address. For those who are Federated States of Micronesia citizens, instead of a 1040 tax form, a I-94 form is accepted.

Proof of residence includes a utility bill from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., IT&E/Docomo phone bill, Medicaid card, food stamp card, bank statements, credit card statement, car registration and insurance, pay stub showing your employer's name and address, house/apartment rental agreement, or postmark mail.

One of the CNMI's own is promoted to staff sergeant

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After four years as a sergeant, the CNMI's own Jeremy B. Lizama was promoted to staff sergeant last Nov. 16, with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command liaison officer for the CNMI Maj. Joshua Kettenton officiating the promotion and Lizama's family and friends witnessing the special occasion.

Lizama currently works as a recruiter at the U.S. Marines recruiting office along Beach Road, Saipan.

In an interview yesterday, Lizama said he enlisted in the Marines in May 2013. At that time, he was in Guam for school but then he changed his mind and decided to enlist. "The plan was to go to school, and I guess [school] wasn't my calling. I went to the Marines instead," he said.

For most of his eight years as a Marine, Lizama was off-island, spending the longest of time in San Diego, California with brief one or six-month stints in Korea and Japan. Lizama came back to Saipan in August 2020 and began working as a recruiter in October 2020.

Speaking of his rank progression, Lizama said he was first promoted from private to private first class in 2014. He was a PFC for 10 months, and soon after was promoted to lance corporal. He was a lance corporal for two and a half years before being promoted to corporal in 2016. In 2017, he was promoted to sergeant. After four years, he was promoted to staff sergeant last week.

When asked about the promotion process, Lizama said his records went up for review by a board composed of higher-ranking Marines. It was a competitive process, Lizama said, with many other sergeants being considered for promotion.

When asked what might have stuck out about him that earned him a promotion, Lizama said he has already received two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals: one for his achievements in his work during his time in Japan, and another for his work as a recruiter.

Lizama credits his achievements to family. "It's always family; you can't do it without their support, and they're what keeps me going. Yes, I'm doing [this] for myself, but I'm also doing it because of them," said Lizama.

Lizama in particular thanked his wife, who he said has been there for him even before he joined the Marines. He said "she keeps me in check" and has stuck with him through the good and bad days.

"She's been there since way before I joined the military. She keeps me in check. ... Whenever I feel like 'Oh, this is it, I'm done', she's [always] there to support me. Without her and my family, I don't think I will be here right now," he added.

Lizama was born and raised on Saipan. He grew up in Koblerville and graduated from Saipan Southern High School in 2012.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy B. Lizama shares a photo with loved ones after being promoted on Nov. 16 during a ceremony at the U.S. Marines recruiting office along Beach Road. U.S. Indo-Pacific Command liaison officer for the CNMI Maj. Joshua Kettenton officiated the promotion, and Lizama's family and friends witnessed the occasion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever."
-Psalm 136

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In this season of gratitude,
let's be grateful for all that we have.

In this season of sharing,
let us share kindness with friends and strangers alike.

In this season of abundance,
let us be abundant with love.

From our familia to yours,

Happy Thanksgiving

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NMI at forefront of strategy to transform recycling in US

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released yesterday the 2021 National Recycling Strategy to tackle recycling challenges facing the nation and to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective municipal solid waste recycling system. This year, the CNMI has overhauled its Zero Waste and Solid Waste plans and infrastructure to create a more resilient and sustainable environment.

"Our nation's recycling system is in need of critical improvements to better serve the American people. EPA's National Recycling Strategy provides a roadmap to address system challenges and pave the way for the future of recycling," said EPA administrator Michael S. Regan. "As we move forward with this strategy, EPA is committed to ensuring that historically underserved and overburdened communities share in the benefits that our work will deliver. Together with the historic investments in recycling from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the strategy will help transform recycling and solid waste management across the country while creating jobs and strengthening our economy."

During the next few months, EPA will work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a plan to implement the 2021 Strategy. EPA will collaborate with communities, local, state, federal, and Tribal partners, and with public and private stakeholders to achieve the strategy's ambitious goals. EPA looks forward to supporting state and local agencies who are on the ground solving these issues.

This year the CNMI has taken major steps to work with EPA through Super Typhoon Yutu recovery grants to develop Zero Waste and Solid Waste plans and infrastructure. In responding to Yutu with a circular economy approach, some of the clean green waste was chipped to provide free mulch to Saipan residents.

Additional work completed to date includes:

■ Hiring new staff across different departments to advance CNMI Solid and Zero Waste programs, including a program manager, four solid waste project coordinators, and two solid waste engineers.

■ Leading regular Integrated Solid Waste Management Task Force meetings with 18 experts from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and EPA.

■ Visiting and hosting Guam Environmental Protection Agency Zero Waste experts to learn from their successful recycling and composting programs.

■ Hosting an initial Zero Waste training, sharing Zero Waste updates at quarterly public interagency meetings, and planning additional training and program development in the coming year.

"The climate, environmental and economic benefits of waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting are clear," said EPA Pacific Southwest acting regional administrator Deborah Jordan. "We look forward to sharing [the] CNMI's Zero Waste actions to support the implementation of EPA's National Recycling Strategy."

"Recycling is critical to sustainable development in the CNMI given its limited landfill capacity and other resources," said Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Eli Cabrera. "BECQ has recently revised its Solid Waste Management Program regulations to streamline permitting for recycling facilities including drop-off centers; automotive, scrap metals, and white goods salvage facilities; construction and demolition waste landfills; and bioconversion facilities including composting. It has also hired staff to build capacity to make sure these changes are implemented appropriately and has scheduled a number of trainings for the upcoming year. These changes should have a significant impact on the amount of waste that is landfilled in the CNMI and help the CNMI achieve its zero waste goals. BECQ is excited to help implement EPA's 2021 Strategy to address the challenges of recycling to achieve environmental and health benefits for its people and to protect its coastal resources."

CNMI Office of Planning and Development director Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong further emphasized that "zero waste strategies are critical to achieving responsible consumption and production patterns." He elaborated that "CNMI's Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan includes the goal that, by 2030, 50% of the recyclable waste stream will be diverted from [the] CNMI's landfill or RCRA-compliant waste management facilities on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands with diverted waste composted, reused, or sold to support sustainable waste management systems. By continuing comprehensive interisland waste management planning and investing to build capacity and our built infrastructure, [the] CNMI is making strides to achieve this ambitious target.

» EPA celebrates CNMI's work to integrate recycling into Typhoon Yutu recovery

This goal is connected to and supports other sustainability objectives. For example, by reducing the quantity of disposed waste entering our landfill we will also be able to efficiently allocate waste management costs, maximize public land uses, and reduce environmental and human health risks of improperly managed waste. We greatly appreciate USEPA's guidance and support in this effort as we continue to incorporate zero waste principles into short-, mid-, and long-range plans and priority actions."

The U.S. recycling system faces many challenges, including reduced markets for recycled materials, recycling infrastructure that has not kept pace with today's diverse and changing waste stream, confusion about what materials can be recycled, and varying methodologies to measure recycling system performance. The 2021 National Recycling Strategy identifies actions to address these challenges that build on the collaborative efforts by stakeholders from across the recycling system that began under the 2019 National Framework for Advancing the U.S. Recycling System.

The Strategy focuses on how the Agency will move forward in the following areas:

■ **Increasing Equitable Access for Overburdened Communities:** EPA recognizes the burden that living near waste and waste-related facilities has on communities when waste is not properly managed, which can lead to higher levels of chronic health issues. The 2021 Strategy will increase equitable access to recycling services, reduce environmental impacts in communities, stimulate economic development, and ensure overburdened communities meaningfully participate during the strategy's implementation.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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Thirty certified in passenger assistance, sensitivity training

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority team, staff from the CNMI Public School System's Office of Pupil Transportation, and transit employees from Tinian and Rota were recently certified in passenger assistance and sensitivity training.

Thirty participants took part in a three-day professional development and certification program earlier this month that was led by Certified Community Transportation of America passenger service and safety master trainer Ginger Porter, M.Ed. This year is reportedly Porter's sixth time conducting the yearly certification training for COTA.

In an email message yesterday from COTA head and special assistant for public transportation Alfreda C. Maratita, she quoted Porter as saying that it was a "special privilege" to lead the training, especially for the transit employees on Tinian and Rota, and that she has witnessed the growth of COTA and it is "satisfying" to be part of the agency's continuing development.

"It was a special privilege to provide the recent Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity training to all of COTA, including those providing new service to Tinian and Rota. Customers of [the] CNMI's transit system will appreciate [the] attention to safety and customer-specific needs from all 30 agency personnel," said Porter.

Maratita said that staff from PSS' Office of Pupil Transportation and transit employees from Tinian and Rota taking part in the trainings alongside the COTA team made this year's training and certification cycle particularly significant.

She added that for COTA to "continue delivering safe and courteous transit services for our community, the proper training opportunities should be afforded" as COTA continues to expand.

"The need for this particular type of training echoes the fact that passenger transportation is a service industry. The most important asset in any transit agency or provider are the transit operators. By providing these training opportunities, skills and knowledge are enhanced for each team member which will, in turn, benefit our CNMI community as a whole," said Maratita.

Thanksgiving SALE

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REAR TIRES 19 x 10 x 9"
BRAKES Disc, front & rear
SEAT HEIGHT 28 3/4"
WHEELBASE 41 1/4"
DRY WEIGHT 310% lbs.

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ENGINE 180cc SOHC 4-Stroke
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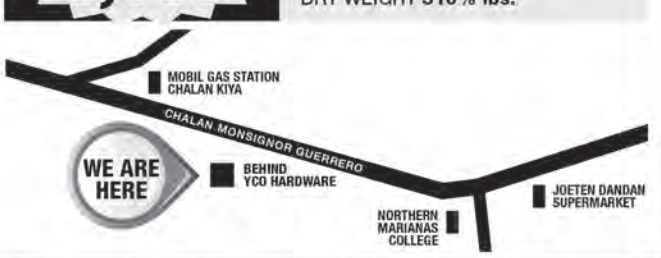

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May Our Lord's Blessing shine down on your family
today and every day. Let us spend this time together
to reflect on what matters the most,

the love of our family, friends, community and our Marianas.

Please wear a mask, wash your hands and watch your distance.

Happy Thanksgiving, Marianas!

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Senator Vinnie F. Sablan

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

‘Comfort and Joy’ shattered at parade

Once again, America is mourning the senseless deaths of innocents—this time the result of a mass killing in a city just west of Milwaukee. And this time, the weapon was a vehicle instead of a gun.

The tragedy at a holiday parade in downtown Waukesha left many stunned and asking why. It started as a joyous celebration with singing, dancing and marching bands. Where can Americans feel safe from harm if schools, churches, concerts, clubs and events like an annual parade can become what one Waukesha official called “a war zone” with five dead and 48 injured?

The suspect has a long criminal history, including two currently open cases in Milwaukee County. Yet he was out of jail and in the position to cause such carnage, even though it was unclear if he had targeted the event, and there was no evidence that he knew anyone in the parade.

The holiday parade is a nearly 60-year tradition in the city. As the festive event began Sunday, a man driving a red SUV ran over barriers and sped through the parade route, mowing down parade participants and revelers along the way. Among the dead were four women and one man ranging in age from 52 to 81. The injured included toddlers to seniors.

Waukesha police reported that those killed as of early Monday afternoon were Virginia Sorenson, 79, LeAnna Owen, 71, Tamara Durand, 52, Jane Kulich, 52, and Wilhelm Hospel, 81. The victims included members of the “Dancing Grannies,” a senior dance group that loved performing in the parade.

Officials say the suspect being held in the case is Darrell Brooks, 39. In one Milwaukee County case, filed Nov. 5, he is charged with resisting or obstructing an officer, reckless homicide, disorderly conduct, bail jumping and battery. In that case, according to The Associated Press, a woman told police that Brooks deliberately ran her over with his vehicle.

In the second case, filed in July 2020, he’s charged with reckless endangering and illegal possession of a firearm. And now he’s likely to face five charges of intentional homicide.

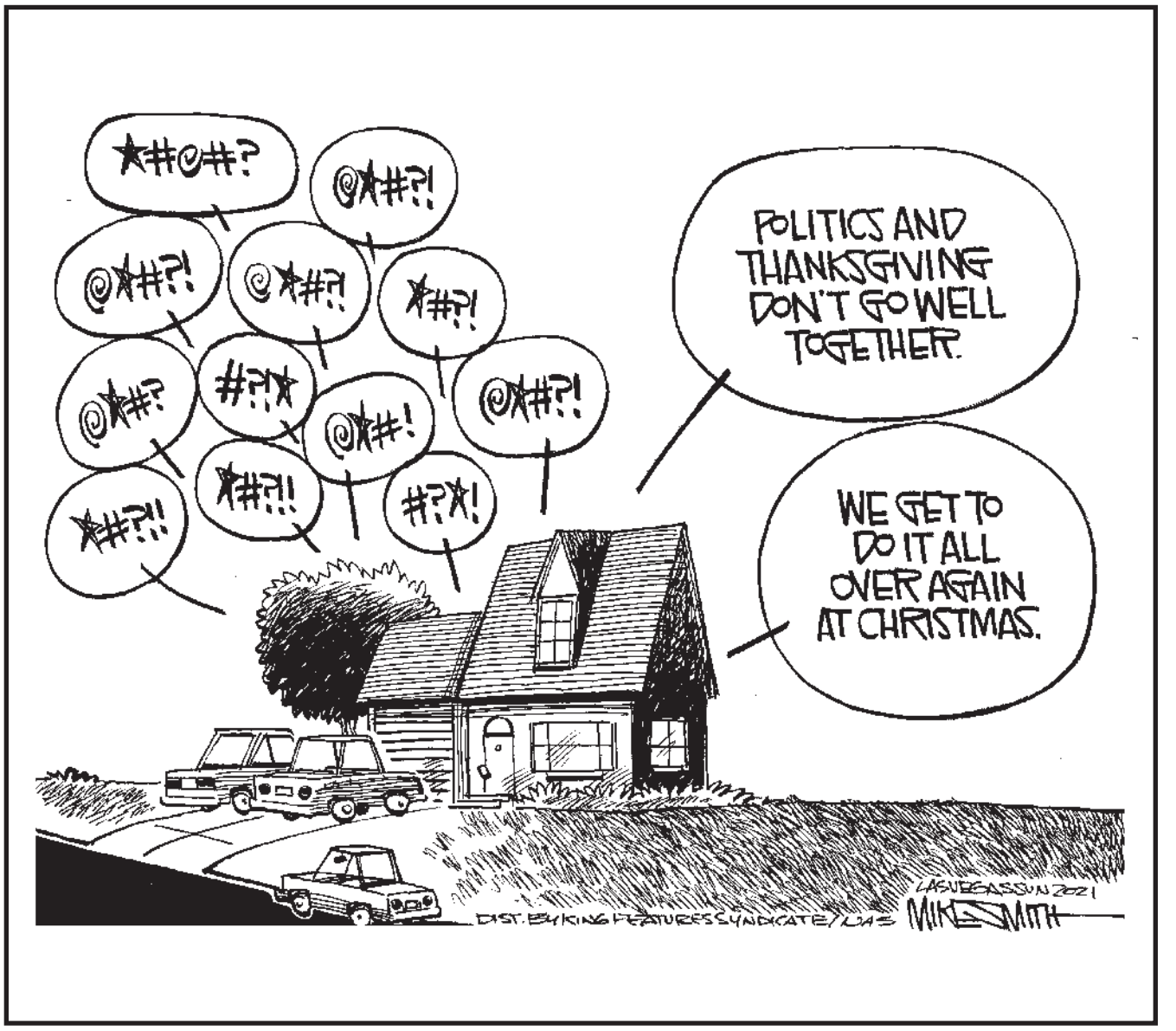
Police investigating Sunday’s carnage reached the preliminary conclusion, based on the city’s livestream cameras and cellphone video from spectators, that the suspect purposefully ran into the victims. Police believe he was fleeing from a “domestic disturbance” at another location before driving to the parade route.

One widely distributed video shows a young child dancing in the street as the SUV speeds by, barely missing her before hitting others.

“There were pompoms and shoes and spilled hot chocolate everywhere. I had to go from one crumpled body to the other to find my daughter,” Corey Montiho, a Waukesha school district board member, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. “My wife and two daughters were almost hit. Please pray for everybody. Please pray.”

The parade, held each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, is sponsored by the city’s Chamber of Commerce. This year’s theme was “Comfort and Joy,” but that will not be what traumatized victims, participants and observers will remember about the horror of the day. And it will put other

See COMFORT on Next Page


POLITICS AND THANKSGIVING DON'T GO WELL TOGETHER.
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Universal Garbage Collection will improve quality of life on Tinian

TRASH TALK

By EDWIN ALDAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Edwin Aldan is the 14th mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan. He has served the Marianas for several years as a police officer, representative, and member of the Tinian Municipal Council. Aldan is committed to leading the mission to foster safety, cleanliness, and equal opportunity for all residents.

In last week’s column, Hon. Mayor Efraim M. Atalig shared that one of the greatest challenges in Rota’s solid waste collection and disposal processes is the island’s lack of commercial trash collection services. Unfortunately, the same is true for our beautiful island of Tinian. Our current waste disposal practices include residents and businesses hauling their trash to either the “green waste” site or the landfill. However, some of our residents don’t have cars to be able to transport their trash to the dump, so they have to depend on their family members or friends to help them. This is usually done weekly, which means that residents spend a lot of time handling their garbage.

The Universal Garbage Collection system will improve the overall quality of life on Tinian by providing a service that collects, sorts, and disposes of garbage for residents and businesses. It will save our residents the time it takes to handle their waste and the resources it takes to be able to do so.

Very often, the Mayor’s Office staff will find residential garbage dumped in public trash bins, drum cans, and even the jungle by the beaches. Although our staff is not responsible for picking up trash from private properties, we collect about a truckload of trash from public spaces every Monday after residents enjoy their weekends at the parks. Cleaning up garbage takes up valuable time that we could use to accomplish other meaningful projects in our community. There have been instances when we had to cite businesses for illegal dumping.

Litter has the potential to cause harm to human health, safety, welfare, as well as the environment. The harmful impact of litter includes trapping or poisoning animals, killing aquatic life directly through choking and indirectly through its impact on water quality. Littering is a fire hazard, and it attracts and provides an incubation area for pests and rodents.

From an environmental position, a UGC system on Tinian will deter illegal dumping in our beaches, jungles, and public trash bins. Some people throw hazardous materials, green waste, and large household goods where they shouldn’t because it’s the most convenient way to get rid of them from their homes. This poses a great risk to our health, environment, and natural resources.

A UGC system will manage the impact on our environment and ensure that hazardous waste materials are disposed of properly. The ongoing military activities will also benefit from having a UGC system on Tinian, as they are continuously looking for ways to get rid of their waste more efficiently and conveniently.

UGC will provide a well-thought-out plan to properly collect, sort, upcycle, recycle, and compost waste to reduce the amount that will end up in our landfill. We need to implement a long-term plan to manage our waste for generations to come.

Above all this, a UGC system will promote a more beautiful and enjoyable experience on Tinian—one that is without litter and the flies that come with it! However, keeping Tinian clean is not a responsibility left only for UGC and the government agencies. It is our responsibility as a community to take a proactive approach when it comes to cleaning up after ourselves at home and in public spaces. It is also our responsibility to keep our island free from illegal dumping. We can’t say we want to keep our island clean and become a world-class destination if we don’t do our part as residents to take care of and protect our island.

The conveniences, safety assurances, and the decrease in health risks are some of the immediate benefits of an implemented UGC system, and Tinian is ready to take this next step to improve the quality of life for its residents.

For more information about the Universal Garbage Collection initiative, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com. Engage with the UGC Task Force via email at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Statement on the passing of honorary consul Arago

Editor's Note: Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued the following statement on the passing of the honorable Glicerio "Eli" Del Mundo Arago, honorary Philippine consul to the CNMI.

By RALPH DLG TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Diann and I join the Commonwealth in mourning the passing of our honorary Philippine consul Eli Arago, who committed his life to advancing the needs of others, most especially the Filipino community of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Consul Eli was a great friend and a true partner in building a stronger and closely-knit Commonwealth with help of our Filipino community. He and I personally collaborated on improving the lives of our *kababayans* because they have contributed to building a better community for our children and grandchildren to thrive.

We worked well together, and I will always treasure our friendship. His untiring service and support to our community are a testament to the type of leader he was, as well as to the care and compassion he held.

We extend our deepest heartfelt condolences to Consul Eli's family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Office of the Philippine Honorary Consulate for the CNMI, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, and TanHoldings Corp.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you and happy holidays

The Bennett family wants to say thanks and to wish the entire CNMI a happy and safe holiday season. We have always been a public family and I'm offering this public thank you as our family has truly become public figures over the years. Over the past 30 years the Bennett family members have continuously been in the public spotlight for one thing or another, garnering the support of the community for our accomplishments and accolades. It has truly been a great journey for our family, thanks to the many people in our community who have constantly supported us and our family will forever be so thankful.

There is no doubt that our daughters have garnered the support of the CNMI over the years, which is why I wanted to express our family's appreciation during this Thanksgiving season. Just as a reminder in case some have forgotten or didn't even know: Shequita, our eldest, was the first Miss Marianas Universe to represent the CNMI in the Miss Universe pageant and she is now a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force; Yvonne was known as "the Sprint Queen of Micronesia" when she brought home five golds and a silver medal with two records from the Palau Micronesian Games along, with her accomplishments in her acting career, winning the "Best Supporting Actress" at the 2019 Utah Film Festival, which also brought the film *Love Kennedy* to the CNMI; and Yvette, the youngest of the Dinga, who was Miss Idaho USA, being the first from the CNMI in the Miss USA Pageant in Baton Rouge and being the first runner-up in the Miss USA Bikini Pageant in Miami.

As for myself, I am so thankful for all the support I have gotten over the years as the first and only elected teacher representative to the Board of Education, the second of only two Fulbright-Hays scholars from the CNMI, the only James Madison Fellow recognized by the U.S. Congress from the CNMI, authoring the only Social Studies textbook based on the Marianas for elementary students and, more recently, being recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the NMI Humanities Council.

As readers can see, the CNMI has done a lot of cheering in support of our family and I just wanted the public to know that our family has not forgotten you and that we truly appreciate all the support you have given and continue to give.

But with all the accomplishments of our girls and myself, it has been my wife, Lillian Marie "Doll" DeLeon Guerrero-Bennett, who has been the silent cornerstone and backbone of our family. It was her love and dedication as a mother and wife that allowed our daughters and myself to be so successful. I would indeed be remiss not to mention such a wonderful woman and offer her a public thanks that she truly deserves during this Thanksgiving and holiday season.

FYI, I didn't write this to brag or boast as some may think but to truly express a sincere thanks to the people for their support with all the things our family have accomplished over the years. It was also weighing heavily on my mind to thank the people of the CNMI for all the prayers and support you have recently given in support of our oldest, Shequita. Our family is just so thankful that she is now recovering from a heart attack that almost took her life. So, a special thank you CNMI for all the prayers and support for our daughter. My wife and I are wishing all of you back home a happy Thanksgiving and holiday season from Germany where we are with Shequita. Please stay safe and get vaccinated!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

'Eli Arago made a tremendous impact to our community'

By DAVID M. APATANG
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David M. Apatang is mayor of the municipality of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A good friend and a very fine gentleman and a longtime resident of Saipan has left us to be with God, our Heavenly father. Glicerio "Eli" Del Mundo Arago touched our lives and made a tremendous impact to our community during his life here on earth. We join his wonderful families, many friends, colleagues, and the community, especially our Filipino community, in mourning his untimely passing.

As honorary Philippine consul, our friend Eli gave it all his best to make sure he served those that needed his attention and assistance. We know he made a difference in many of our people's lives by being there at the most critical moments of their needs.

Although we are saddened of his untimely passing, we know Eli wants us to pray and rejoice now that he is with our Creator in paradise. We should all carry on his legacy of generosity and understanding for that is what he wanted us to do in our community.

Si yuus maase, ghilisow, thank you, and *salamat po*, Eli, for all you have done.

'A great friend to many of us in the CNMI'

By ANGEL A. DEMAPAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Editor's Note: House minority leader Angel A. Demapan issued the following statement upon learning of the passing of the Honorable Glicerio "Eli" Arago, honorary Philippine consul to the CNMI:

On behalf of the House minority, we join the people of the Commonwealth in mourning the passing of honorary Philippine consul Eli Arago, a friend of the Marianas and a respected pillar of the Filipino community of our islands.

Consul Eli was a great friend to many of us in the CNMI, especially since he's made his home here for the past 35 years. As a senior vice president for the TanHoldings group of companies, Eli was an active and visible private sector partner for a host of community-based and public-private partnership programs."

And following his appointment as honorary Consul for the Philippines to the CNMI, Eli served in this role above and beyond the call. He worked hard to ensure that all Filipino workers in the CNMI received the assistance and advocacy they needed at any given time.

He worked well with everyone from both the public and private sectors. Moreover, he built strong relationships with the community, reflective of the Commonwealth's longstanding ties with the Philippines.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Consul Eli's family and friends during this difficult time. And we extend our thoughts and prayers to the Office of the Philippine Honorary Consulate for the CNMI, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, and TanHoldings Corp.

Thanksgiving message

By DAVID M. APATANG
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"Thank you" is a powerful and wonderful word. It can put a big smile on a person's face. But it is very powerful because it can spring an emotion that would last a lifetime. Each of us has been blessed with many good things that drive us to do more for others. Each of us has also been blessed with many challenges that drove us to do better. We must be thankful for everything in our lives. This Thanksgiving Day, let us take a moment to express our gratitude to those who were there for us and let us also continue to help others in need and thank our Lord for His continuous blessings for us.

We thank all our veterans and active service members, frontline workers, federal agencies, corporate partners, and countless others for their dedication and selfless devotion to make Saipan a better place to live, work, visit, and raise a family. You are the heart and soul of our community.

May God bless you all and happy Thanksgiving!

David M. Apatang is mayor of the municipality of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

COMFORT

From Page 10

cities on edge as other holiday celebrations take place between now and the new year.

The victims in Waukesha will need prayers, yes, but also years of healing. That's too often the case in America, where lawlessness leaves too many people feeling unsafe—even at what Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly described as a "Norman Rockwell-type of Christmas parade."

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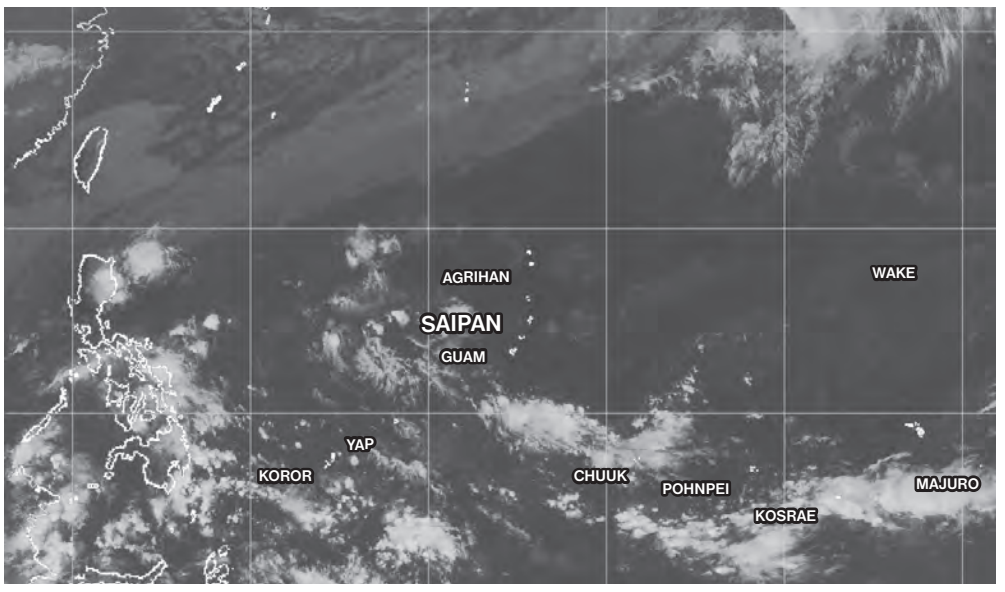
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Breezy. Mostly cloudy sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
85° 77°	87° 78°	87° 78°	86° 77°	86° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:46 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East trade-winds and scattered showers were over the Marianas this morning. Drier weather will gradually filter over the area through the day. Nice weather is expected for Thanksgiving Day and Friday. A surface trough will bring wet weather by Sunday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:59 AM	10:30 PM
Friday	-	11:44 AM	11:23 PM
Saturday	-	12:26 PM	-
Sunday	12:15 AM	1:06 PM	-
Monday	1:08 AM	1:46 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	70° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	45° / 23°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	64° / 61°
Honolulu	Windy	79° / 71°
London	Showers	48° / 36°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	86° / 66°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 69°
New York	Sunny	52° / 43°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	52° / 43°
Paris	Showers	54° / 41°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	54° / 48°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	64° / 52°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	63° / 44°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 54°
Seoul	Rain	46° / 36°
Tokyo	Sunny	57° / 39°
Washington, DC	Sunny	55° / 39°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:02 AM	Low Tide	-0.23
12:54 PM	High Tide	1.59
6:27 PM	Low Tide	1.20
9:58 PM	High Tide	1.36

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GCC to host free OSHA courses this February

MANGILAO, Guam—The Guam Community College Environmental Technician Certification Program will hold two free Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, training courses in February 2022.

The first is a 10-hour course on the General Industry will be held on Feb. 7-8, 2022. The second course is OSHA 521, Industrial Hygiene and is set for Feb. 9-11, 2022. Both courses may be taken for certification.

The courses are in collaboration with the National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education, a national non-profit organization, and the Hazardous Materials & Emergency Services Training Institute at Barton Community College in Kansas.

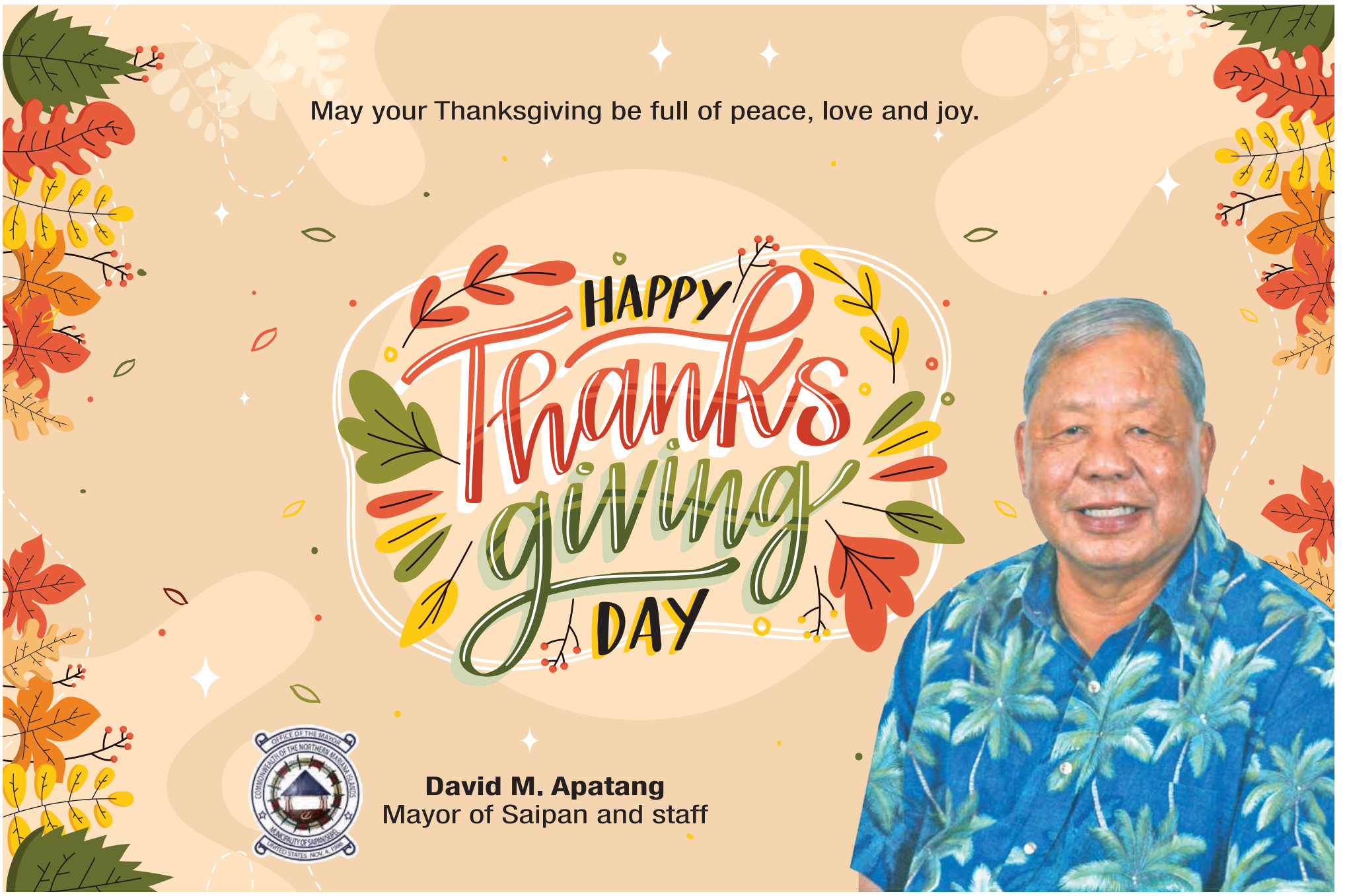
Courses are funded by a grant from the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences and are at no charge to participants. Government agencies, veterans, and the military are encouraged to attend. Participants from Guam will receive face-to-face, in person, instruction at the GCC Multi-Purpose Auditorium (Building 400) in Mangilao. Participants in the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands will attend virtually, via synchronous instruction on Zoom, and require a stable internet connection.

Attendance of the full course hours are required to receive certification. Face-to-face participants must be fully-vaccinated against COVID-19 and must provide proof of vaccination.

To register for these free OSHA courses contact John Jocson at johnmichael.jocson@guamcc.edu. For further information on course content, contact Bill Nash at oshahazmat@gmail.com or785-341-2552. ***(PR)***

GRTA retains Friday schedule

The Guam Regional Transit Authority will be running its regular Fixed and Paratransit schedules on Friday, Nov. 26, 2021. There will be no changes to the schedule despite the public holiday. The Transit Management Center may be contacted at 671-647-7433 for any transit related matters. ***(PR)***



Atkins Kroll acquires Morrico Equipment

TAMUNING, Guam—Atkins Kroll Inc., an Inchcape Company, announced yesterday the acquisition of Morrico Equipment Holdings Inc, which owns the subsidiary Morrico Equipment LLC, one of Guam's largest heavy equipment dealerships.

"Morrico Equipment LLC is one of the most respected dealer groups in Guam and Micronesia with a strong culture, strong brands, and an incredible team of employees," said Alex Hammett, Inchcape managing director for Asia Developing Markets. "This acquisition will further diversify our total portfolio mix, and we believe that this will be truly transformative for Atkins Kroll and Morrico Equipment LLC. We are honored to be the stewards of Morrico Equipment LLC and look forward to continuing to lay the foundation to support varying infrastructure projects that will take our island and the region into the next decade and beyond."

Allan Morrison founded the company in 1990, along with founding directors Ross Morrison and Torgun Smith. Today Morrico represents over 24 manufacturers with the most trusted brands such as Freightliner, Mercedes Benz, Hyundai Construction Equipment, Kohler Power Systems, Rosenbauer Fire Trucks and Thomas Built School Buses. Morrico Equipment LLC, operates new and used heavy equipment sales, rental, parts, diesel fuel delivery, Trashco Guam, and specialized diesel repair service to Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"Over 31 years, Morrico Equipment has grown to be one of the largest heavy equipment dealerships in Guam and Micronesia," said Allan Morrison, president of Morrico Equipment LLC. "We acknowledge the hardworking and dedicated, employee owners of Morrico Equipment LLC, and are very proud to have given them the opportunity to greatly benefit from this transaction. Atkins Kroll is a well-respected company that has been committed to Guam and Micronesia for over a century, and we have full confidence they will continue to take care of our Morrico employees, customers, and partners." ***(PR)***

Docomo Pacific, Lookout tie-up for cloud security

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity, and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, has launched a new mobile security offering for enterprises in partnership with Lookout, the San Francisco-based leader in endpoint-to-cloud security. The solution is the first of its kind in the region and protects enterprise organizations against growing mobile application, network, device, and phishing threats.

According to data in the Lookout Security Graph, the Asia Pacific region has experienced a 66% increase in exposure to mobile phishing attacks in the past 12 months, which far outweighs the global increase of 50%. Due to mobile devices' smaller screen size and simplified user interface, it can be more difficult to detect suspicious links and sites on smartphones and tablets, making phishing attacks on mobile more effective than on desktops and laptops. Threat actors are able to leverage the multiple communications channels available on mobile devices such as SMS, third-party messaging apps, and social media messaging to target victims with phishing links. These types of attacks disrupt business operations and inflict lasting damage to a brand's reputation and can harm existing customer relationships.

The award-winning Lookout Mobile Endpoint Security solution is powered by the Lookout Security Graph, which analyzes telemetry data from more than 200 million devices and 150 million apps, and continuously ingests and analyzes millions of URLs every day. By using artificial intelligence, Lookout secures organizations against phishing, app, device, and network threats efficiently and in a manner that respects user privacy. The use of machine learning on data in the Security Graph enables Lookout to automatically detect and respond to threats even if they have never been seen before.

Lookout Mobile Endpoint Security customer benefits include:

- Secures company- and employee-owned iOS, Android and Chrome OS devices.
- Protects against mobile phishing attacks from all communications.
- Scales to hundreds of thousands of endpoints with a cloud-delivered platform.
- Minimizes disruption with a lightweight user app that is optimized for performance and battery life.
- Meets compliance requirements while preserving user privacy.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Free 5K fun run/walk for JKPL

As part of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 30th Anniversary, JKPL will host a 5K Literacy Fun Run/Walk on Dec. 18, 2021, a Saturday, starting at 4pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe then turning around at the Quartermaster Road and returning to finish at the library. This literacy fun run/walk is free and open to the community.

The JKPL 5K Literacy Fun Run/Walk is in compliance with social distancing, health and safety measures.

The event is sponsored by Run Saipan, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Free T-shirts will be distributed on the day of the event for the first 75 registered participants. Sizes are limited on a first come, first registered basis. Photo/video release and liability forms must be completed during event-day registration. Bottled water will be provided for participants. Temperature checks and hand sanitizer stations will be available.

Upon completing the run/walk, participants will receive a library eco-bag, free books new and used, and bragging rights in completing the event.

Community sponsors and donors are encouraged to donate to the JKPL to help fund our public libraries' programs and services. The JKPL is accepting educational tax credit donations, in-kind support, and sponsorship for the 30th anniversary programs and services. We welcome and encourage businesses and private donors to consider donating cash contributions. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under ETC; make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury.

The JKPL encourages all participants to contact the JKPL at (670) 235-7315/7322/7323 (READ) to sign up. Signing up does not count for registering.

Visit our website www.cnmilib.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @joetenkiyupublicliblary for the latest news and updates. Please call us at (670) 235-7322/7323 (READ) should you have any questions. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's regular hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday through Thursday from 10am to 6am, Friday from 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday from 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sunday, Monday, and holidays. ***(PR)***

"Gratitude paints little smiley faces on everything it touches."
— Richelle E. Goodrich
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With Gratitude at Thanksgiving
We thank you for your business.
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Tel. No. 1-670-234-0609/10

MINA continues removing typhoon-created marine debris

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is advancing its work in the removal of in-water and coastal marine debris and coastal areas in the targeted areas of the Tinian Harbor, shallow waters and coastline of northern Tinian, as well as the coastal areas and shallow waters of southern Saipan—areas where Super Typhoon Yutu caused widespread devastation.

The U.S. Congress, under the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-20), allows grants to be awarded through a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund. Grants are approved based on the extent of the presence of marine debris and how it can harm coastal communities and resources, and to prevent further damage to sensitive marine habitats and species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance gathers tin roofs from the San Antonio village area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Tasi Watch community rangers gather in front of typhoon-created marine debris in southern Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Marine debris is an everyday problem, but natural disasters have the potential to make it worse. The NOAA Marine Debris Program is excited to support the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance in the important work of removing typhoon-created marine debris from Tinian and Saipan. We look forward to seeing the hazards and impacts of this debris reduced, and the restoration of shorelines and coastal waters for the ecological, economical, and recreational benefit of the community," said Mark Manuel, NOAA Marine Debris Program, Pacific Islands regional coordinator.

So far, 93.44 acres of in-water assessment of marine habitat in the Tinian Harbor has been completed as of September, and work is ongoing to complete the assessments of the priority areas. Removal of hazardous materials is expected to begin within two-to-three weeks of the assessment of shoreline priority areas.

Work on Saipan began in late June led by marine biologist Dave Benavente as project manager. With the help of MINA's Tasi Watch Rangers and volunteers, and after training in best practices and assessments, they successfully restored 42.28 acres of marine and 3.85 terrestrial near-shore habitats, which is a little over 2% of the total target area. This activity yielded 10,361 lbs of debris from near-shore and shallow marine ecosystems of southern Saipan.

Debris removal work in the Tinian Harbor is progressing, although somewhat hampered by the onslaught of tropical storms passing through the Marianas since July. Fine scale underwater surveys are currently underway, and best practices removal assessments will commence immediately upon determination that there are no listed endangered species of coral present on the targeted debris. In addition to the harbor area, coastal areas of northern Tinian have also been assessed to determine the extent of the presence of debris; shoreline removal of debris on Tinian is ongoing.

MINA would like to acknowledge the NFWF and NOAA's support in this endeavor, as well as the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and other partners in the advancement of the goals of the debris removal grant.

MINA is a 501 (c) (3) environmental conservation organization and has been serving the Marianas since 2005. To learn more about MINA's efforts of removing typhoon-created marine debris from Tinian and Saipan, contact program director Becky Furey at beckfurey.mina@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Today, we remember God's unfailing faithfullness and protection throughout this pandemic. We give thanks for keeping CNMI safe. May you and your family enjoy this celebration.
HAPPY
Thanksgiving
From the management and staff of
HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
& Tan Marikita's Cafe
Tun Herman Pan Rd.,
P.O. Box 500002,
Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-1726
Fax: (670) 288-1726
sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com

In Memoriam

GLICERIO "ELI" DEL MUNDO ARAGO

DEC. 21, 1951 – NOV. 24, 2021

Environment

Guam Green Growth has its 1st Conservation Corps graduates

The first-ever cohort of G3 Conservation Corps graduates pose with University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant director Austin Shelton, UOG president Thomas W. Krise, Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, and UOG senior vice president and provost Anita Borja Enriquez after their graduation ceremony on Friday, Nov. 19, at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex (Adelup) in Hagåtña.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

An innovative program designed to establish a foundation for workforce development to support an emerging green economy achieved a milestone this month by holding its first graduation.

Guam Green Growth, or G3, an islandwide initiative facilitated by the Center for Island Sustainability at the University of Guam in coordination with the Office of the Governor, recognized its first batch of G3 Conservation Corps graduates on Friday at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex (Adelup) in Hagåtña.

The graduates are Nikomang Bradley, Joseph Certeza, Alana Chargualaf, Abby Crain, EnyDennis Dali, Claudia Rosalia Guerrero, Jacqueline Jones, Drake Kemp, Lusech Ngirakesau, Daniel Stone, Kaya Taitano, and Kevin Wong.

G3 launched the Conservation Corps in partnership with UOG Center for Island Sustainability and UOG Global Learning and Engagement department in June. For the past five months, the 12 members have undergone full-time hands-on training in various aspects of sustainability, such as agriculture and aquaculture, island beautification, invasive species removal, reforestation, circular economy and recycling, and renewable energy. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-007

MANNED SECURITY GUARD SERVICES FOR CUC FACILITIES ON SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security Guard Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of $200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-007*, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on November 29, 2021**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on November 24 , 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager at email richard.cano@cucgov.org and John Mafnas, CUC Contracts officer via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 023

Opening Date: November 12, 2021
Closing Date: November 26, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Administrative Assistant: Office Support & Logistics**
DEPARTMENT:	**Administration**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists primarily in the needs of the Executive Director and must be readily available at a moment's notice to assist in any of his/her projects.
- Must be readily available to assist after a disaster (i.e., typhoon) and/or emergency that the Executive Director must address on behalf of the Corporation.
- Provides reception duties such as answering phones, typing, taking messages, photocopying, filing, referring inquiries to the appropriate resource and advises management of issues for resolution.
- Assists in gathering, assembling, updating, processing and/or distributing forms, documents, requests, invoices, mail and/or records and reviews information for completeness, accuracy and content.
- Picks up the Corporation's mail and or pouch from the U. S. Postal Service or from the airport cargo as well as customer payment receipts from the banks and distributes the documents accordingly on a daily basis.
- Collects and processes the Corporation's outgoing mail (letters, pouches and packages) and ensures all required postage and/or airway bill forms are properly completed.
- Deposits check payments received at the banks as well as performs other bank-related requests. Routes confidential and critical documents to the Board members and/or various government agencies and individuals for signature in a timely manner.
- Monitors supplies, materials and/or equipment inventory and prepares requisition for replenishment of needed supplies or required services; monitors order status, coordinates deliveries and services with vendors; and may provide pick-up or delivery of documents or items as needed.
- Ensures that conference/meeting rooms are kept tidy; including ensuring that common areas, such as the kitchen or break room, remain clean and clear throughout the day.
- Assists in corporate sponsored events.
- Must have strong attention to detail and the ability to take directions, along with previous work experience in office administration.
- Carries out any other reasonable requests made by department and/divisions at the approval of the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- Must be able to lift up to 50lbs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma, GED or ABE Program and a minimum of one-year office work experience.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic filing and recordkeeping principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Basic inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Modern office technology. Strong interpersonal and communication skills, clerical skills, and moderate computer proficiency.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer services, Filing, organizing and maintain records and files; Preparing basic reports, correspondence and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Proofreading documents for accuracy; Identifying errors and making corrections; Reviewing and researching account information; Maintaining confidentiality of records and information; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.
All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources Department located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (except legal holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW22-ITB No.: 42200015

SUBMISSION DATE: December 21, 2021 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of Government Building 1359, Capitol Hill, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **November 18, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 07, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Project Site Government Building 1359, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 14, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

Katsushi Nishikawa & Pamela Boudville
P.O. Box 5087, CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 234-1234

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the adoption of: N.T.N. Minor Children By: Katsushi Nishikawa and Pamela Boudville Petitioner	FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0424 AMENDED **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 15th day of November, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Life & Style

Musician Jon Batiste leads Grammy Award nominations with 11

By JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Jon Batiste might be the Grammys biggest surprise: The multi-genre performer and recent Oscar winner made such an impression on voters that he scored the most nominations with 11 on Tuesday.

Batiste

Batiste earned an album of the year nod for "We Are" along with record of the year with "Freedom," a feel-good ode to the city of New Orleans. His nominations span several genres including R&B, jazz, American roots music, classical and music video.

"Oh my goodness. I'm still in a state of astonishment and shock," Batiste told The Associated Press moments after learning of the nominations. "I'm just really happy that we were able to make something in complete artistic integrity and have it be recognized."

Justin Bieber, Doja Cat and H.E.R. each came away with the second-most nominations with eight by the time the Recording Academy was done announcing its nominees for its Jan. 31 show. Billie Eilish and Olivia Rodrigo both had seven nods.

Along with Batiste's surprise domination, another shock was The Weeknd nabbing three nominations after the pop star claimed he would not allow his label to submit his music. Earlier this year, he angrily slammed the Grammys, calling them "corrupt" after he received zero nominations despite 2020's biggest single, "Blinding Lights."

Even though The Weeknd said he would boycott future Grammys, he still became a nominee for his work on album of the year projects, including Doja Cat's deluxe edition "Planet Her" and Kanye West's "Donda." His third nomination was for his appearance on West's single "Hurricane," which also features Lil Baby.

Kevin Spacey ordered to pay $31M for 'House of Cards' losses

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kevin Spacey and his production companies must pay the studio behind "House of Cards" more than $30 million because of losses brought on by his firing for sexual misconduct, according to an arbitration decision made final Monday.

A document filed in Los Angeles Superior Court requesting a judge's approval of the ruling says that the arbitrators found that Spacey violated his contract's demands for professional behavior by "engaging certain conduct in connection with several crew members in each of the five seasons that he starred in and executive produced House of Cards."

MRC, the studio behind "House of Cards," had to fire Spacey, halt production of the show's sixth season, rewrite it to remove Spacey's central character, and shorten it from 13 to eight episodes to meet deadlines, resulting in tens of millions in losses, the document said.

"The safety of our employees, sets and work environments is of paramount importance to MRC and why we set out to push for accountability," MRC said in a statement Monday.

Spacey

A representative for Spacey did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. His attorneys argued that the actor's actions were not a substantial factor in the show's losses.

The ruling came after a legal fight of more than three years and an eight-day evidentiary hearing that was kept secret from the public, along with the rest of the dispute.

Spacey appealed the decision to a panel of three more private arbitrators, who found for the plaintiffs, making the decision final, and public, on Monday.

"MRC stood its ground, pursued this case doggedly, and obtained the right result in the end," plaintiff's attorney Michael Kump said in a statement.

The 62-year-old Oscar winner's career came to an abrupt halt late in 2017 as the #MeToo movement gained momentum.

Actor Anthony Rapp, who has appeared in "Rent" on Broadway and film as well as in "Star Trek: Discovery" on television, said Spacey made a sexual advance on him when he was 14 at a party in the 1980s.

Helen Mirren makes regal bow as Harry Potter quiz show host

This image released by Turner Entertainment shows Helen Mirren hosting the quiz show "Harry Potter: Hogwarts Tournament of Houses." AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Helen Mirren is oddly absent from the Harry Potter film franchise that proved close to a full-employment act for Britain's acting greats. But she's found her own path into its magical world.

Dame Helen, as the Oscar, Emmy and Tony-winning actor is properly addressed, makes her debut as a quiz host with "Harry Potter: Hogwarts Tournament of Houses." The weekly, four-part series begins 8 p.m. EST Sunday on TBS and Cartoon Network.

In episode one, contestants representing the Gryffindor and Hufflepuff houses field trivia questions about J.K. Rowling's novels-turned-films in a bid to claim a championship trophy and prizes.

Mirren left the cramming to the players and is unworried about being a novice game show emcee.

"I can certainly play a strict host," she said, drolly.

Mirren's willingness to take on something different shouldn't raise eyebrows. She's celebrated for her regal roles—including "The Queen," "Elizabeth I" and "Catherine the Great"—but also counts the Fast & the Furious movie franchise among her varied credits.

Her return to a comic book-based project is upcoming: She plays a mythological goddess in "Shazam! Fury of the Gods." Mirren's baptism in the genre came with the film "Red" and its sequel.

In an interview with The Associated Press, she discussed her admiration of the Potter canon, making a TV fashion statement, and female bonding on the set of the DC Comics-based film. Remarks have been edited for length and clarity.

Friend constantly shares details of big purchases

DEAR ABBY: "Eileen" and I have been friends for 21 years. She's been supportive through my life's ups and downs, even though I've twice moved several states away. She has always made me laugh.

Abby, over the years, she has increasingly flaunted her spending habits, bragging about how much she spent on her son's birthday or Christmas gifts or home renovations, and sending me pictures of her brand-new cars.

I'm not jealous. I grew up in an upscale neighborhood with career-driven, successful parents who loved and provided for us. I was also very close to my sisters and am to this day. Eileen grew up in less fortunate circumstances. She never saw her mother much, and she found her father only recently through social media.

I am finding Eileen's behavior increasingly annoying. Would it be wrong to say something to her about this? I'm afraid if I open my mouth, it could potentially destroy our friendship. What do you advise?

ANNOYED IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ANNOYED: When people behave the way Eileen does, it usually reveals more about their insecurity than their success. Eileen did not grow up with the advantages that you enjoyed, and she may do this because she thinks it's the only way to measure up.

Let your friend know you're happy things are going well for her. Then, ask her why she does this. After she responds, tell her that you have always loved her for who she is, not for what she has—and in the future you wish she would not take up space in your precious conversations with insignificant topics like material things.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: In about three years, my wife and I will be able to comfortably retire. The problem is she's 57 and has smoked since she was in her teens. In addition to tobacco, she also smokes reefer and consumes alcohol three or four nights a week, and her family medical history is not great. I indulge a little with her—on weekends only—and I'm not a smoker.

Needless to say, I'm becoming increasingly worried that our golden years will be difficult or cut short. I have tried talking to her about it, but she doesn't want to hear it. She's a great person and the love of my life, and I don't want to lose her before we can enjoy retirement and grandkids. What can I do?

WORRIED SICK IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR WORRIED SICK: Try this approach: Tell your wife she's the love of your life and you would like to spend your golden years celebrating them with her while you both take full advantage of everything you have worked so hard to accumulate. Explain you're worried that her vices will shorten her life, which is why you "need" her to quit smoking cigarettes and cut down on the drinking.

If she refuses, add that if her life ends prematurely, your life will NOT be over, and what a shame it would be if everything you had worked and planned for couldn't be enjoyed together. If that doesn't motivate her, nothing will.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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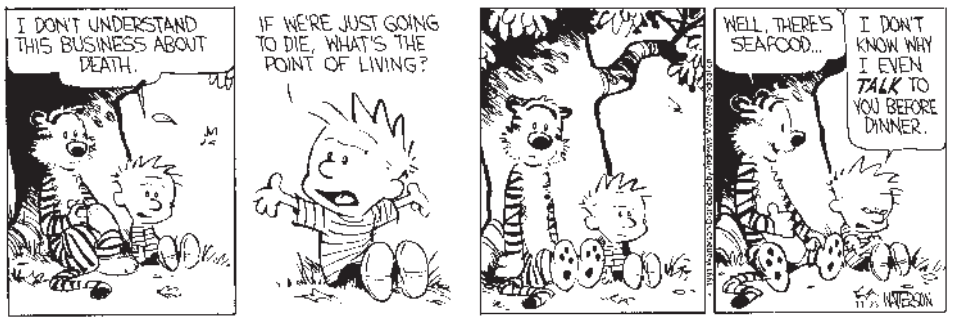
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

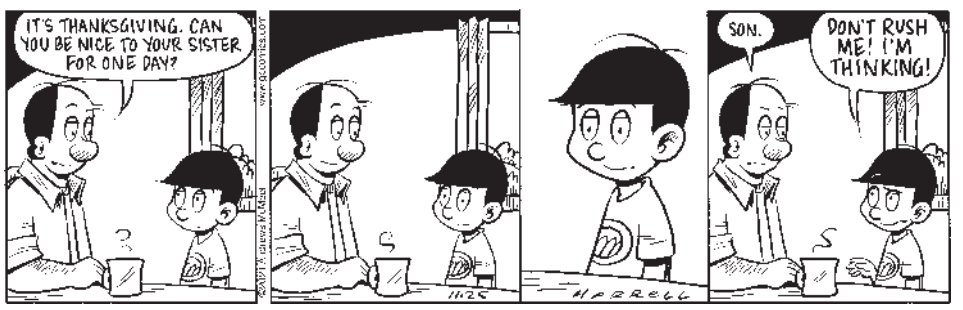

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS BUSINESS ABOUT DEATH.
IF WE'RE JUST GOING TO DIE, WHAT'S THE POINT OF LIVING?
WELL, THERE'S SEAFOOD...
I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVEN TALK TO YOU BEFORE DINNER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

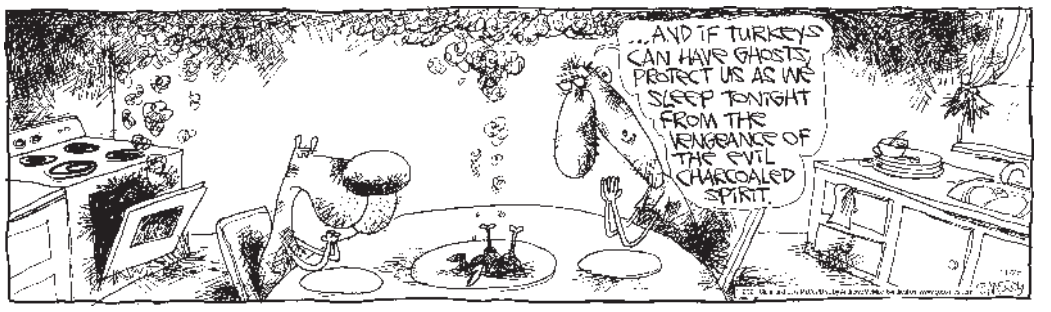
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Dream on!"
5 Meander
9 Silent assent
12 Theater section
13 Museo display
14 Hot temper
15 Limo-rental time
17 Tiara sparkler
18 Use a sieve
19 Sneeze sound
21 "— Bamba"
22 Pie-in-the-face sound
24 Hayseed
27 Former Delta rival
28 Roman 602
31 Bird (Pref.)
32 ISP giant
33 New England cape
34 Leaf
36 Three, in Rome
37 Tax prep pros
38 Famous
40 Rainey or Barker
41 Horned beast
43 Wine vessel
47 Summer mo.
48 Stay-up-late types
51 "Whatevs"
52 Notion
53 Act of faith?
54 Concorde, e.g.
55 Geezer
56 Jittery

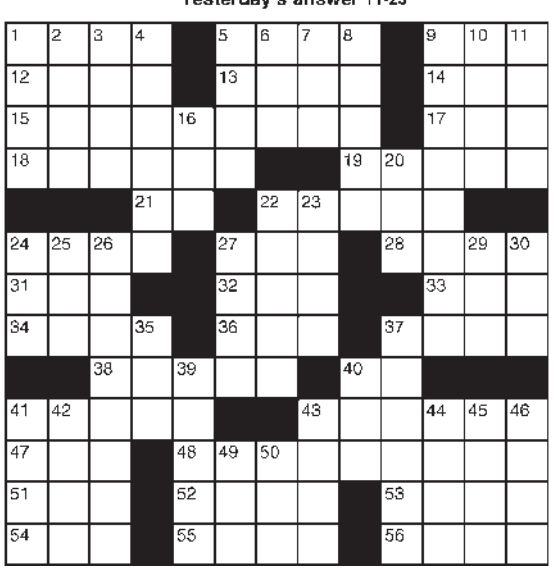
DOWN

1 Swiss peaks
2 Separate
3 Mr. Stravinsky
4 Like does and hens
5 April forecast
6 URL ending
7 Sports fig.
8 Rock genre
9 Bedtime drink
10 Layered cookie
11 Audition CD
16 Actress Long
20 Scoundrel
22 Duel tool
23 Ale variety
24 Knock
25 Sch. founded by Jefferson
26 1996 Tony Shalhoub film
27 London gallery
29 Chef Garten
30 Connections
35 Long time
37 Songwriter King
39 Bar mixer
40 Yoga pad
41 Runs (into)
42 Colorations
43 Converse
44 Dumbstruck
45 Banner
46 Glimpse
49 Chapel vow
50 Earth (Pref.)

Solution time: 24 mins.

D	E	E	D	■	T	O	S	■	S	K	E	W
E	A	S	E	■	R	A	P	■	T	E	L	E
C	R	A	B	C	A	K	E	■	Y	C	L	L
O	S	I	R	I	S	■	C	O	M	P	E	L
■	■	■	A	A	H	■	K	R	I	S	■	■
D	O	S	■	O	C	J	■	G	E	A	R	S
A	R	E	A	■	D	I	S	■	S	K	I	T
B	R	A	S	S	■	P	A	O	■	E	M	S
■	■	Q	U	I	T	■	S	P	A	■	■	■
M	O	U	S	S	E	■	H	E	L	M	E	T
E	S	A	U	■	S	W	A	N	L	A	K	E
A	L	K	A	■	T	O	Y	■	O	L	G	A
N	O	E	L	■	Y	E	S	■	T	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 11-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katie Cassidy, 35; Jerry Ferrara, 42; Christina Applegate, 50; Bruno Tonioli, 66.

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative, and good things will happen. Wheel and deal until you feel you have the safety net you require to ease stress and give you the wiggle room to enjoy life. It's up to you to follow through so you don't have regrets when you look back at missed opportunities. Take the plunge, and focus on what makes you happy. Your numbers are 3, 8, 17, 27, 36, 38, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An unexpected change in a relationship will leave you at a loss. Take a moment to rethink your steps and figure out the best way to move forward. Put your energy where it counts, and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Inconsistency will be the enemy. Don't share your thoughts before you are sure you can follow through. Put more effort into personal goals, physical improvements, and figuring out how to deal with others without getting into an argument. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do what matters most. Rearrange things at home or work to ensure your space favors getting things done efficiently. Reach out to someone who grounds you; you'll gain insight into something that will help you make progress. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): An emotional matter is best dealt with quickly. Don't let situations fester until they spin out of control. Challenge yourself, and concentrate on being and doing your best, not wasting time on someone or something you have no control over. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Refuse to let what others do stifle your creativity or stop you from enjoying life. Deal with the inevitable by doing the things that engage your mind and including people who share your concerns. A positive attitude will encourage good relationships. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Concentrate on things that matter. Take care of domestic situations to avoid upsetting a neighbor, relative or lover. A change of plans will favor you. Don't make a fuss; time is on your side, and romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be able to convince others to see things your way if you are firm in your convictions. Set your plans in motion, and finish what you start. Put your energy in achieving, not worrying about what others say or do. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be careful who you trust. An emotional situation will lead to instability and a falling out with someone you least expect. Don't let anger set in when what's required is secrecy and backroom discussions that will help your cause. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll find a way to make your money work for you if you set priorities and avoid being too generous with others. Don't be fooled by a fast talker. Stay focused on what you are trying to achieve. Discipline will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep your personal and professional lives separate. If you let your emotions interfere with your responsibilities, you will fall short of your expectations. Physical activity will ward off the blues and pump up your energy enough to complete tasks. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put things in perspective, sort out what you must do and get busy. Discipline and intelligence will help you jump over barriers and encourage you to stay on track until you reach your destination of choice. Be a leader, not a follower. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't share your thoughts or intentions. Pitch in physically and help those in need, but don't pay for someone else's mistake. A change you make will help you parlay a job you take on into one you want to pursue. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are wise, insightful and giving. You are inventive and changeable.

✪ ***star:*** *Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes.* ✪✪ ***stars:*** *You can accomplish, but don't rely on others.* ✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Focus and you'll reach your goals.* ✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Aim high; start new projects.* ✪✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2	6			1		
		5						
8				5	1		6	9
		7	5		9			2
		3				7		
1			3		7	4		
3	4		8	9				6
						9		
		8			3	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	2	3	7	9	8	5	4
3	8	4	2	1	5	7	6	9
5	9	7	8	6	4	1	2	3
2	7	8	9	5	3	4	1	6
6	5	9	1	4	7	2	3	8
4	1	3	6	2	8	9	7	5
7	3	1	4	9	6	5	8	2
8	4	5	7	3	2	6	9	1
9	2	6	5	8	1	3	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE **Solution: 6 letters**

F	T	N	E	M	E	S	I	T	R	E	V	D	A	K
L	M	A	R	C	H	I	N	G	Ⓒ	Ⓑ	Ⓝ	O	L	I
L	A	E	E	N	A	C	Y	D	N	A	C	A	T	D
E	D	L	S	S	H	A	N	L	B	M	W	E	U	S
R	I	B	T	N	H	C	I	I	R	K	E	K	N	A
R	S	A	P	L	O	O	T	O	R	R	O	O	D	T
A	O	T	D	I	N	O	W	A	T	G	O	O	T	N
B	N	A	N	V	L	E	P	S	W	L	U	E	I	A
R	K	L	A	E	L	L	E	Y	L	G	J	K	S	S
E	R	F	R	G	A	M	S	A	H	Y	P	P	A	H
K	O	N	G	R	A	E	B	B	S	M	O	K	Y	O
C	Y	I	T	S	E	B	O	T	U	R	K	E	Y	U
A	W	N	E	T	O	Y	S	P	T	R	O	L	L	S
R	E	S	I	O	T	R	O	T	E	L	Y	T	S	E
C	N	A	T	T	A	H	N	A	M	I	G	H	T	Y

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Yesterday's Answer: Homemade

Treasuries 25, 26, 31 and 33 through 47 can be purchased online anytime for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Red Sox exercised manager Alex Cora's option for 2 seasons

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Red Sox have exercised Alex Cora's option for two more seasons, rewarding their manager for taking them to the AL Championship Series in his first year back after a one-year sign-stealing suspension.

Cora, 46, is now under contract through 2024. The team could have waited until after the 2022 season to decide on the options, but Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom said on Monday there was no reason to wait.

"We have a lot to be proud of for 2021 and a lot of unfinished business," Bloom said. "He's a tremendous leader, and a wonderful partner for what we're trying to do as an organization."

A former infielder who was a member of Boston's 2007 World Series championship team, Cora is 284-202 in three seasons as manager.

"As a leader, as a motivator, he can really bring the clubhouse to another level," Bloom said. "He's real, and you need that through the ups and downs of a baseball season."

Cora led the club to a franchise-record 108 victories and a World Series title in 2018, his first season as manager. Cora was let go in January 2020 after he was identified as the ringleader in cheating by the Houston Astros while he was bench coach in 2017.

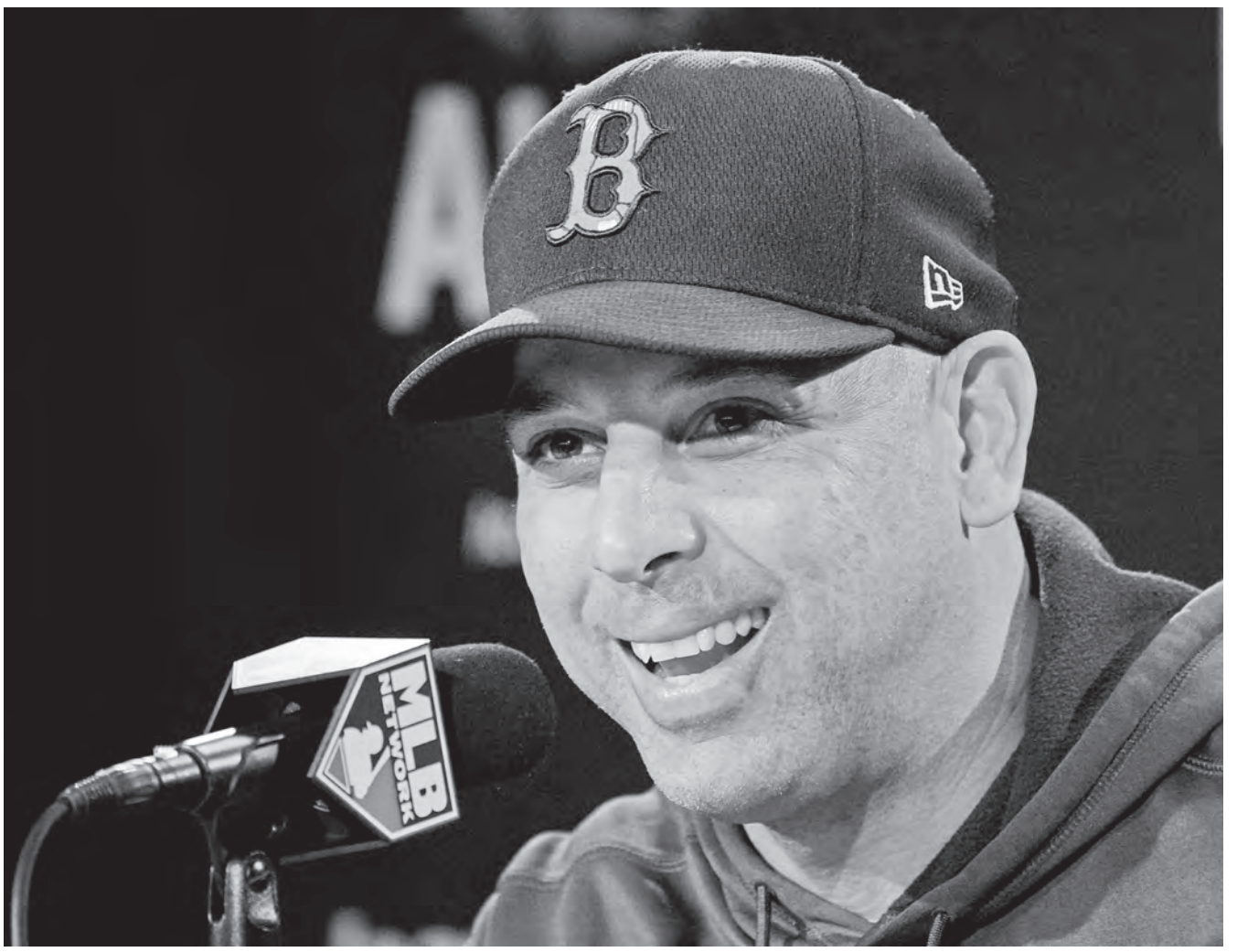
After Ron Roenicke managed the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, Cora was brought back to the Boston dugout. The Red Sox went 92-70, then beat the New York Yankees in the AL wild card game and the Tampa Bay Rays in the Division Series before losing to the Astros in the Championship Series.

"I am beyond grateful for this opportunity to manage the Red Sox," Cora said. "We experienced so many special moments as a team and as a city in 2021, but we still have unfinished business to take care of."

Also Monday, Bloom said the team is in the market for pitching after left-hander Eduardo Rodriguez agreed to a $77 million, five-year deal with the Detroit Tigers. But Bloom did not commit to replacing him with a front-line starter or bolstering the staff in some other way.

Bloom said it was difficult to let Rodriguez go. The 28-year-old Venezuelan has been one of the rotation's most consistent pitchers, winning 19 games in 2019 before missing all of 2020 with heart problems related to COVID-19.

"We were fighting our emotions on this. He means a lot to people here," Bloom said. "We're happy for him. But we have to be comfortable with how far we're willing to extend."



Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora speaks to reporters prior to a baseball practice at Fenway Park, Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021, in Boston. AP

Correa, Freeman, Scherzer among baseball's top free agents

By NOAH TRISTER
AP BASEBALL WRITER

With a possible lockout on the horizon, it's been mostly business as usual on the free agent market—so far.

Detroit signed left-hander Eduardo Rodríguez. Houston retained star righty Justin Verlander. Noah Syndergaard went from the Mets to the Angels on an expensive one-year deal.

The deadline to accept qualifying offers came and went last week, further clarifying who was heading to the open market.

It remains to be seen whether the uncertainty about the next labor agreement will affect offseason moves for the top players available, but it's clear there are plenty of good options for teams looking to upgrade.

Here's a look at baseball's top free agents by position. Players' current ages are in parentheses:

LEFT-HANDED STARTER

Carlos Rodón, White Sox (28)

It's a toss-up between Rodón and Robbie Ray. Rodón didn't really threaten Ray in the Cy Young vote, but his ERA was about a half a run lower and he's also younger. And Ray received a qualifying offer while Rodón did not, so that may make Rodón a more enticing target.

Other options: Ray rebounded impressively from a poor 2020, but he isn't some one-year wonder. He was very good in 2017 as well. Clayton Kershaw has never pitched for anyone but the Dodgers, but he's available now and at age 33 can still be effective if healthy.

LEFT-HANDED RELIEVER

Aaron Loup, Mets (33)

Loup went 6-0 with a 0.95 ERA in 65 appearances. Opponents hit .192 off him.

Other options: Andrew Chafin was impressive last season for both the Cubs and Athletics. Tony Watson cut down on the walks after being traded from the Angels to the Giants.

RIGHT-HANDED STARTER

Max Scherzer, Dodgers (37)

No signs yet of any major decline for Scherzer despite his age. He's had an ERA at 3.15 or lower in eight of the last nine seasons—the only time it was higher was in the shortened 2020 campaign.

Other options: Kevin Gausman was good in 2020 and looked like a Cy Young contender this year until a second-half stumble. Marcus Stroman gave the Mets a 3.02 ERA over 33 starts in 2021.

RIGHT-HANDED RELIEVER

Raisel Iglesias, Angels (31)

Iglesias saved 34 games for Los Angeles, and things did not go smoothly for the Cincinnati bullpen after he left. He's had at least 30 saves in each of the past three non-shortened seasons.

Other options: Kenley Jansen seemed to be slipping after three straight years with an ERA over 3.00. Then he lowered it to 2.22 this year and held opponents to a .153 average. Tampa Bay signed Collin McHugh before last season, and that alone is a good endorsement of a reliever's potential. He went 6-1 with a 1.55 ERA.

CATCHER

Yan Gomes, Athletics (34)

There aren't any star catchers available this year, but Gomes can provide a bit of pop.

Other options: Roberto Pérez hit 24 homers in 2019 and then batted under .200 in 2020 and 2021. Robinson Chirinos hit double-digit homers three straight seasons from 2017-19 but has played only 71 games since.

FIRST BASE

Freddie Freeman, Braves (32)

Losing Freeman would be a major downer for the World Series champions, but the five-time All-Star and 2020 MVP will obviously command a big price. Even at first base it's hard to find this kind of consistent production.

Other options: Anthony Rizzo's OPS has been under .800 the past two seasons, but he's the only other big name available at first. Brad Miller is coming off a 20-homer season in Philadelphia but is unlikely to provide a high batting average.

SECOND BASE

Marcus Semien, Blue Jays (31)

Let's list Semien as a second baseman—where he mostly played this season—and avoid a tough decision at shortstop. Semien hit 45 home runs this year while playing all 162 games, and he finished third in the MVP vote. He has the most WAR of any player in baseball since the start of the 2019 season, according to Baseball-Reference.com.

Other options: César Hernández hit 18 home runs for Cleveland this season before being traded to the White Sox. Donovan Solano's offensive numbers dipped slightly this year but he was a solid contributor for the 107-win Giants.

THIRD BASE

Eduardo Escobar, Brewers (32)

Escobar hit 28 home runs this year in the first full season since he slugged 35 in 2019. He played a bit at first, second and shortstop in addition to third.

Other options: Kyle Seager got a big ovation from Seattle fans at the last game of this season — they were apparently well aware that he might be moving on to another team. Jonathan Villar's stolen base numbers aren't what they used to be, but he can still provide double-digit homers.

SHORTSTOP

Carlos Correa, Astros (27)

Correa made his big league debut at age 20 and reaches free agency well shy of his 30th birthday. That makes him a good bit younger than some of the other top players on this list, and he may be the most sought-after name this offseason.

Other options: There are plenty of good shortstops available this year. Corey Seager is also 27, and Trevor Story just turned 29. Javier Báez turns 29 on Dec. 1.

OUTFIELD

Starling Marte, Athletics (33)
Kris Bryant, Giants (29)
Nick Castellanos, Reds (29)

Marte did what he could to help the A's down the stretch, and he ended up with an .841 OPS this year for Oakland and Miami. Bryant doesn't turn 30 until January and can obviously play third base in addition to the outfield. Castellanos set career highs in homers (34), batting average (.309) and OPS (.939) this year.

Other options: Avisaíl García hit a career-high 29 homers for Milwaukee and is only 30 years old. Chris Taylor remained productive for the Dodgers while playing six positions. Japanese slugger Seiya Suzuki hit 38 homers this season with the Hiroshima Toyo Carp.

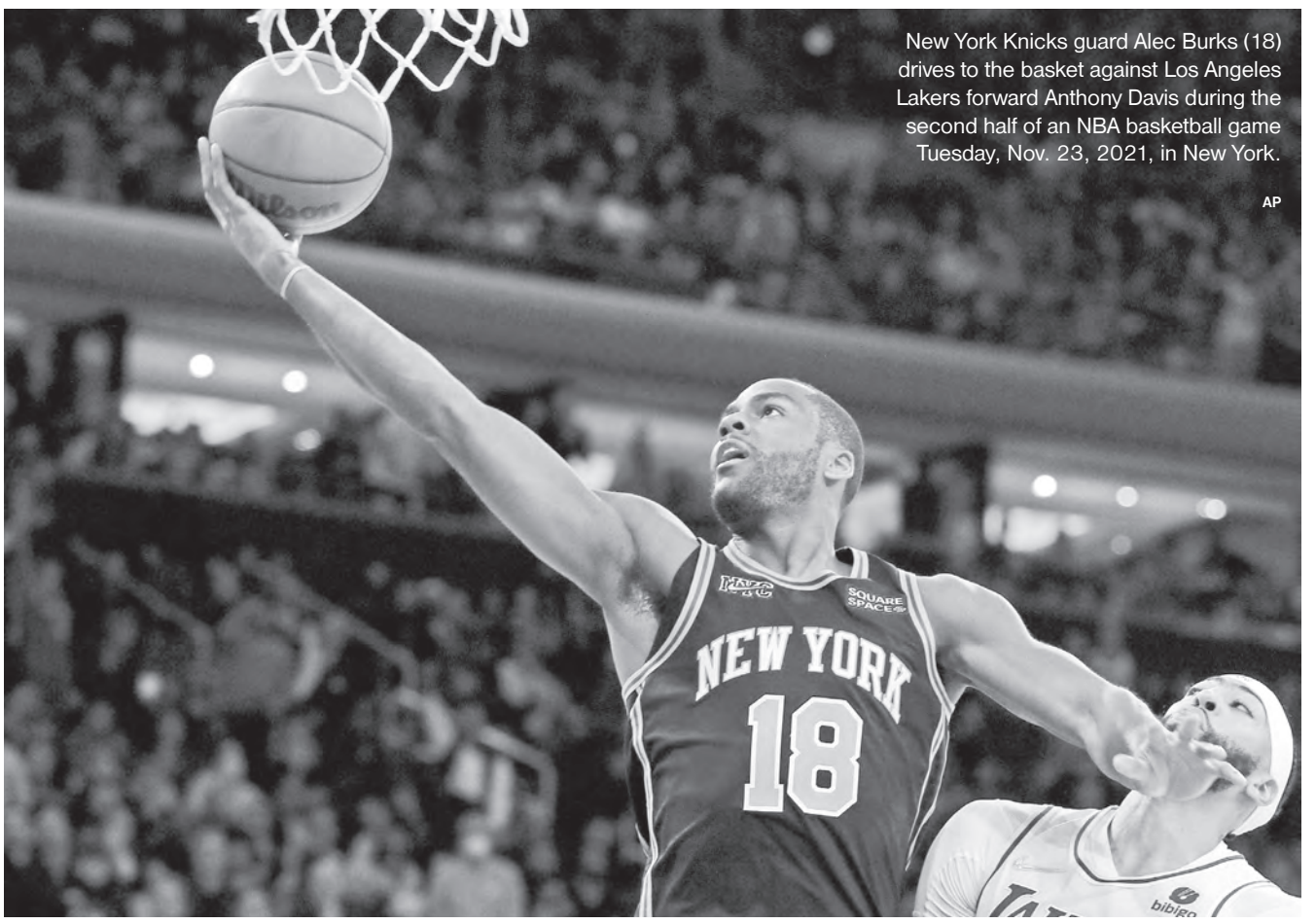
DESIGNATED HITTER

Nelson Cruz, Rays (41)

Cruz may finally be slowing down, but only a little. He hit 32 homers this year but posted an .832 OPS, his lowest since 2012.

Other options: Kyle Schwarber finally ended up with an American League team when he was traded from Washington to Boston. He can play the outfield, but he's known for his bat, and his role will likely depend on where he goes and what the rules are. Mitch Moreland spent a lot more time at DH than at first base this year, and his offensive numbers dipped significantly.

Knicks hold off Lakers team missing suspended James, 106-100


New York Knicks guard Alec Burks (18) drives to the basket against Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, in New York.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Evan Fournier scored 26 points, Immanuel Quickley had 12 of his 14 in the fourth quarter after New York had blown a 25-point lead, and the Knicks beat a Los Angeles Lakers team missing suspended star LeBron James 106-100 on Tuesday night.

Julius Randle added 20 points, 16 rebounds and five assists for the Knicks, but sat for eight minutes of the fourth quarter after picking up his fifth foul. Quickley made sure that didn't matter, hitting four 3-pointers in the period.

Russell Westbrook had 31 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists, with 18 points in a sensational third quarter that helped the Lakers tie the game. But with James not in the arena, Anthony Davis struggling through an illness and Carmelo Anthony's shot off in his old home, the Lakers never could take the lead.

They beat Detroit on Sunday after overcoming a 17-point deficit in the game James was ejected from for striking Pistons center Isaiah Stewart in the face and drawing blood. The NBA suspended the superstar forward for one game.

But the best Los Angeles could do in this one was tie it twice after New York dominated most of the first two quarters.

Davis, who woke up with a fever, had 20 points on 7-for-17 shooting. Anthony was just 3 of 14 for 12 points, and the Lakers lost for the fourth time in five games.

Heat 100, Pistons 92

In Detroit, Tyler Herro had 31 points and eight rebounds as Miami rallied to beat Detroit.

Miami (12-6) outscored the Pistons 27-6 in the first 8:17 of the fourth quarter to turn a nine-point deficit into a 12-point lead.

Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo each added 15 points and nine rebounds for the Heat, who won for the fifth time in six games. Kyle Lowry had 15 points, eight assists and six rebounds.

Jerami Grant had 21 points and seven rebounds for Detroit (4-13), which went 1-4 on its homestand. The Pistons played without center Isaiah Stewart, who served the first of a two-game suspension for Sunday's altercation with Lakers star LeBron James.

Trail Blazers 119, Nuggets 100

In Portland, Ore., CJ McCollum scored 32 points and the Portland Trail Blazers handed the depleted Denver Nuggets their fifth straight loss with a 119-100 victory. Damian Lillard had 25 points and five assists to help the Blazers to their fourth consecutive win and ninth in a row at home.

Jeff Green led Denver with 24 points. After the Nuggets took a 49-48 lead with 3:35 left in the second quarter, Portland seized control. The Trail Blazers unleashed an 18-3 spurt to close the first half, sparked by four 3-pointers from Lillard and capped by a buzzer-beating layup by McCollum, giving them a 64-52 lead at halftime. From that point on, the smallest Blazers lead was eight points.

Mavericks 112, Clippers 104

In Los Angeles, Kristaps Porzingis scored 30 points, Luka Dončić had 26 in his return to the Dallas lineup, and the Mavericks defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 112-104 in overtime Tuesday night.

The Mavericks were up 102-92 late in the fourth quarter before the Clippers scored 11 of the final 12 points to force overtime, including a 3-pointer by Paul George at the buzzer. Dallas, though, put up the first seven points of overtime and outscored Los Angeles 9-1 to snap a three-game losing streak.

Porzingis, who has scored 20 or more in a career-high seven straight games, had six points in overtime. He also made all 10 of his free throws in 40 minutes of action.

Reggie Jackson led the Clippers with 31 points and 10 rebounds. George scored 26.

Dončić, who missed the past three games due to left knee and ankle sprains, also had nine rebounds and nine assists in 41 minutes. Dallas trailed by six at halftime but scored 38 points in the third quarter to grab an 80-76 advantage going into the final 12 minutes. Dončić had 15 points in the period and four assists that resulted in 10 additional Mavericks points.

NBA in the 60s: Embry details indignities, little support

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Sixties were a turbulent time in our country—and in the NBA—as the battle for Civil Rights raged.

That battle reached my hotel room in Philadelphia in the spring of 1965, when my wife Terri called from Cincinnati to tell me she and Oscar Robertson's wife Yvonne were going to join Dr. Martin Luther King's march from Selma to Montgomery.

"Are you crazy?" I asked. This was less than two weeks after Bloody Sunday, when Alabama state troopers on horseback attacked the nonviolent marchers with tear gas, clubs and dogs after they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma.

Of course, I admired their courage and sympathized with the cause. But league executives made it clear they didn't want us to get involved and insecurity about our jobs kept us sidelined—and glued to the television.

What a wonder 55 years later to watch with pride as NBA players not only participated in but led marches in the protests that erupted after the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. The Milwaukee Bucks, upset over the shooting of African-American Jacob Blake by a white police officer in nearby Kenosha, Wisconsin, were ready to boycott a first-round playoff game and with five other teams ready to join the boycott, the league postponed all the games in support.

But things were so different in the NBA in the 1960s. The league was so insignificant that my aspiration was to play for the Harlem Globetrotters—or go to business school. I wasn't sure there was a place for me in the NBA. If not for Joe Lapchick, the first coach of the New York Knicks. He pulled me aside at a college All-Star game, gave me insight about the league and told me I could have a bright future in the NBA.

In 1958, I was drafted by the St. Louis Hawks, who had no Black players, and was almost immediately traded to the Cincinnati Royals, who had one—Si Green. And he was traded on opening night, leaving me as the only Black until Oscar arrived two years later. My first contract was for $6,300 a year—not guaranteed – which I signed without hesitation.

There were rumors of a quota system in the league—and I can tell you the rumors were true. Veteran Earl Lloyd, the first African American to play a game in the league, once told me to always play my best so my team couldn't cut me.

The league consisted of eight teams, with 10 players each. We often drove to road games, three or four of us packed into the car. Back then, there still were hotels who wouldn't house Black players or restaurants that wouldn't serve us. Often, when playing in Boston, we would eat at Bill Russell's house. In other cities, we'd have dinner at the homes of other Black players, or get recommendations where we could eat.

After the initial efforts of Lapchick to integrate what would become the NBA were thwarted in 1947, progress was being made in the 1960s.

The Celtics started five black players, and Russell became the first Black coach in the league. My Royals were providing a beautiful illustration of race relations every day when the white Jack Twyman and his family became the primary caregivers for Black teammate Maurice Stokes, a powerful player cut down by a traumatic brain injury suffered in a fall during a game. He emerged from a coma paralyzed and unable to speak. Twyman and Stokes were an inseparable example of love and friendship.

We had all learned things from the nonviolent movement going on around us, and we put them to good use before the 1964 All-Star Game in Boston – the first to be nationally televised. At a players' only meeting called by Boston's Tommy Heinsohn, we voted not to play the game unless the owners recognized our newly formed union.

After some tense moments as tipoff approached, the owners finally agreed. Our bold move established a path for the future that benefited players and owners.

Progress was being made in the country, too, with the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964. We thought that might help ease the pain in the wake of the assassination of President John Kennedy in 1963, but not even five years later King was assassinated, as was Kennedy's brother Robert, the former attorney general who was running for president in 1968.

By WAYNE EMBRY
For The Associated Press

Wayne Embry was the NBA Executive of the Year in 1992 and 1998. The 6-foot-8 forward/center was named to the Hall of Fame in 1999. Since 2004, the 84-year-old Embry has been the Senior Basketball Adviser for the Toronto Raptors.

By then, I was playing for the Celtics, who were en route to the 1968 NBA championship. After King's assassination in April, riots broke out again. As players, we were inclined not to play out of respect for Dr. King. But word came down from the league office that the mayors of Boston and Philadelphia (our opponent in the Eastern Division Finals) were pleading for us to play in an effort to keep people home and off the streets. So we played that game and postponed the next one, resuming the playoffs after Dr. King's funeral.

After winning the NBA title in 1968, I was selected by Milwaukee in the expansion draft, played one season and retired. My salary that season went to $40,000—almost seven times more than my first season. There had been so many changes in the league and out, on the court and off, progress and setbacks. The next decade would bring new challenges—and new celebrations—for me, the league and the country.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Hall of Famer Wayne Embry, a five-time NBA All-Star and the first African American general manager in sports when the Milwaukee Bucks named him to that position in 1972, shares some of his experiences of playing in the league during the 1960s. The demand for Civil Rights and the Vietnam War were among the issues dividing the country and the foundation was being formed in the NBA that league and players stand on today.*

MRA to have Turkey Cross Race this Sunday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Marianas Racing Association will hold a Thanksgiving event dubbed the Turkey Cross Race this Sunday, Nov. 28, starting at 10am at the Cowtown Race Track.

MRA president Charles Cepeda said the Turkey Cross Race is a great opportunity for the motocross community to come together and celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Turkey Cross is a get-together for the MRA *familia* to give thanks and celebrate motocross in the CNMI. I personally want to give thanks to the Lord for all the members, supporters, officials, and racers of MRA. Truly blessed that they show care, respect, and trust to each other on and off the track. Happy Thanksgiving to all."

Categories at stake in this weekend's race include Peewee ATV, Peewee I, Peewee II, Mini I, Mini ATV, Power Puffs, Mini II, Novice, Big Boy ATV, Newbies, Veterans, Novice, and Open Expert. Prizes await the Top 3 in each division.

Cepeda said MRA's membership is still growing and he anticipates the Novice and Beginners classes will have the most in the field, noting that the different classes for the kids indicate strong participation for this weekend's Turkey Cross Race.

"The MRA kids always show eagerness to be on the track whenever possible. Mini bikes and ATV races will go on with expected strong race competition. In addition, the Expert and Veterans racers will provide excellent challenges during each lap with the expectancy of sufficient riders to hold separate division races. Turkey Cross Race allows MRA members' skills in motocross to be up to par. It gives MRA officials the chance to exercise and advance their officiating skills as well," he added.

Cepeda also admits that the Turkey Cross Race is a way for MRA members to blow off steam following the stress brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"MRA members anxiously want to race amid the COVID-19 community spread which have our community on edge. The Turkey Cross Race is a way for riders and fans to blow dust off the worrisome of COVID-19. Format will be similar as in the past races, however, the MRA board expects less riders will participate. Certainly the dust and noise from the dirt bikes will still provide lots of entertainment," he said.

To this end, the MRA will implement COVID-19 Task Force protocols with social distancing and monitor of contacts in the pits area during all-day Turkey Cross Race. The pits area will be limited to MRA members and immediate families. MRA will also limit the number of people under each tent and distance of at least 6 feet between each rider's family/team tents will be implemented.

Marianas Racing Association president Charles Cepeda in action during one of the organization's monthly races at the Cowtown Race Track in Marpi. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	13	5	.722	—
New York	10	8	.556	3
Boston	10	8	.556	3
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	3
Toronto	8	10	.444	5

Southeast Division

Miami	12	6	.667	—
Washington	11	6	.647	½
Charlotte	11	8	.579	1½
Atlanta	9	9	.500	3
Orlando	4	14	.222	8

Central Division

Chicago	12	6	.667	—
Milwaukee	10	8	.556	2
Cleveland	9	9	.500	3
Indiana	8	11	.421	4½
Detroit	4	13	.235	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	10	7	.588	—
Memphis	9	8	.529	1
San Antonio	4	12	.250	5½
New Orleans	3	16	.158	8
Houston	1	16	.059	9

Northwest Division

Utah	11	6	.647	—
Portland	10	8	.556	1½
Denver	9	9	.500	2½
Minnesota	8	9	.471	3
Oklahoma City	6	11	.353	5

Pacific Division

Golden State	15	2	.882	—
Phoenix	14	3	.824	1
L.A. Clippers	10	8	.556	5½
L.A. Lakers	9	10	.474	7
Sacramento	6	12	.333	9½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMBA

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the second straight time the NMBA is holding a separate competition for U19 players after having junior division games in last month's TakeCare Badminton Open.

"We are looking forward for the exciting games in the open division as this event will feature several players who are hoping to represent in NMI in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games that Saipan will be hosting. We wish all the players good luck," Tolentino added.

Nathan Guerrero, who donned the CNMI colors in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa is entered in the men's singles and will be battling the division crown against Joseph Torres, Daniel and Ezekiel Macario, Jordan Pangilinan, and Noel Watiwat. The women's singles open field, on the other hand, has Janelle Pangilinan, also a member of the NMI National Team to the previous Pacific Games, and Windy Fernandez and Hannah Choi, who made it to the champions circle in last month's TakeCare Open.

Fernandez and Choi are also playing in the women's doubles and will be up against Jennine Savellano and Pangilinan, Miles Guerrero and Malou Malasarte, Jen Cardino and Lucelle Lampera, and Michaella and Mikamaika Serrano. In the men's doubles, Torres will team up with Pangilinan and they will be vying for the division title against the Macario siblings, Guerrero and Hajin Oh and Watiwat and J.P. Javier.

In the loaded mixed doubles play, the pairings are Nathan Guerrero and Janelle Pangilinan; Torres and Choi; Jordan Pangilinan and Malasarte; Lampera and Nico Antonio; Fernandez and Chris Hilario; Savellano and Ezekiel Macario; Daniel Macario and Miles Guerrero; Marielle Lim and Watiwat; and Cardino and Sefric Viloria.

In the U19 division, the men's field has Paulo Quidato, Taka Borja, Kyle Salcedo, Vince Satur, Marlon Bautista, Ian Lubao, Danielle Pablo, and Joe Antonio. The girls division has five entries in Sophia Quintos, Gian Punzalan, Angel Reyes, Kiesha De Guzman, and Mikayla Lopez. All U19 players will also compete in the doubles and mixed doubles events. Draw and schedule of games will be announced Friday morning. ***(PR)***

TOP

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He added that playing with Woo in the finals made him reassess his disdain for playing doubles in the past.

"I am also happy to play doubles and win with Jimin because he was an excellent partner for doubles. I didn't like doubles before, but after I played with Jimin in this tournament, it made me a person who wants to play doubles in the future. It is always fun to play with Jimin who is also my friend. I always improve by playing with Jimin and it makes me more motivated to play aggressively and with confidence."

Ryu added that either playing with or against Woo is always an honor because he is the kind of player you can learn tennis skills from due to his experience.

"I really don't mind losing to him, but I always wanted to focus on having a great match so that my opponent can be satisfied as well. Playing him in my finals for 18-and-under and playing with him in the men's doubles was so exciting and extremely fun. We had various plays that we thought of to win points and if I didn't have a partner like Jimin, I don't think I would've not succeeded."

He also dedicated their men's doubles open victory to himself.

"I am dedicating this to myself for my personal goal and to my family who is always cheering for me whether I win or not."

In the men's doubles 2.0, Dave Guerrero and Jim Tuttle took the championship after defeating Derek Culp and Rod Klasson, 6-1, 6-3.

"We just finished our match and it was fun. It was a very spirited match and we enjoyed it. They really gave us a scare at the end. I think we had them 4-1 and they came back at 4-3," said Tuttle.

Guerrero said it was a very competitive match despite the final score. "At the very end, there was like deuce five times."

Tuttle said he and Guerrero had incredible chemistry together despite the tournament being the first time they played together. Both hope the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic will be the first of many more tournaments they will team up.

In the men's doubles 4.0, Patrick Vincent Aquino won his third championship of the tournament after teaming up with Ronnie Lacbayo to beat Bong Gamab and Jun Javier, 7-5, 7-5. He previously won the men's 4.0 singles and the mixed doubles 4.0.

Javier and Lacbayo came from being on opposing sides to teaming up in winning the men's doubles 40 title when they outlasted Brian Wessel and Roy Pangelinan, 6-2, 6-7 (3), 10-6.

In the men's doubles 50, Ken Imaya joined forces with Wessel and the duo triumphed over Pangelinan and Dong Min Lee, 6-3, 6-4. The winners in the men's doubles 60 were Jorge Olanda and Joe Quitugua after they got the better of Lito Cabrera and Edgar Lloren in a marathon finals, 2-6, 7-6 (3), 10-6.

The results of the rest of the divisions of the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic will be reported in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

HIRO

From Page 20

level in Abu Dhabi.

"As a swim team, Tsunami Saipan has calculation formula which converts the time in the unofficial pool to the time in the official pool. A professor of motion physics in Japan advised us how to calculate it. The formula is complicated, but very reliable. So, we understand which is our level in a worldwide level all the time. It becomes the most important thing for CNMI swimmers since the current situation where there is no official pool."

The FINA World Swimming Championships being a short course meet also puts the CNMI swimmers at a disadvantage since most of them are used to long course competitions.

"This time it's short course meet, but the first their target of this time is to mark a faster time than CNMI record which is set by long course meet. The time in short course is slightly faster than the time in long course. It is about milliseconds faster at 100m. The time in short course is a very useful reference. Shoko is a strong 200m breaststroke and 200m freestyle swimmer. She is one of the top distance swimmers in Micronesia. But this time I will let her try sprint event. It becomes big challenge for us," said Kimura.

Northern Marianas Swimming Federation representative Richard Sikkel, who will accompany the four swimmers and Kimura to the Middle East, said the umbrella organization of all swimming clubs in the CNMI is at the beck and call of the CNMI national swimming team bound for the 2021 FINA World Swimming Championships.

"Behind the scenes the federation has been working hard on all the logistics to prepare for the world championships, such as travel arrangements, COVID-19 documentation, accommodation, team apparel, etc. The swimmers themselves under coach Hiro's guidance have completed their selection for their individual event entries in Abu Dhabi. The focus for them now is to fine-tune their skill and timing in those particular events so they can put in their best performance and hopefully swim PBs and possibly bring home age group national records," he said.

Kimura also thanked the following for their support of the CNMI national swimming team: 500 Sails for allowing them the use of their facility whenever they have open-water practice; Aqua Resort Club for letting the team use their diving pool for start practice; and Saipan Swim Club and coach Richard Sikkel for helping them practice in the ocean and conduct joint practice.

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Sports

Red Sox exercised manager Alex Cora's option for 2 seasons

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Top seeds triumph in men's open doubles

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jimin Woo and Sam Ryu justified their top seeding in the men's open doubles after winning the division in the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Woo and Ryu, who played against each in the finals of the boys 18-and-under just a week prior, defeated CNMI Sports Hall of Famer and many time national tennis coach Jeff Race and Luther Lizama, 6-3,7-6 (4).

It was the third championship of the tournament for Woo, as the 17-year-old Saipan International School student also ruled the men's open singles as well as the aforementioned boys 18-and-under singles.

Sam Ryu, left, and Jimin Woo won the men's open doubles championship of the 2021 TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. MARK RABAGO

"I'm very happy that I got the win for both singles and doubles especially on my last TanHoldings tournament before I go to college next year," he said.

Woo dedicated his championships to his father, Bongchun Woo.

"I dedicate these wins to my dad who is working in Korea. I haven't seen him for a year and a half. He is the one who went out to the courts to train me every day. Without him I wouldn't be where I am today," he said.

Ryu, an 18-year-old student Mount Carmel School, said winning his first ever men's open doubles was an unbelievable feeling.

"It is my first time winning men's open doubles and I was so happy to play coach Jeff and Luther in the finals because I never thought I would play my coach in the tournament."

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Hiro: Target is to be best in Micronesia

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jinnosuke Suzuki, Juhn Tenorio, and Asaka and Shoko Litulumar have received their marching orders from national team coach Hiroyuki Kimura and that is to aim to be the best in the region for next month's 2021 FINA World Swimming Championships set from Dec. 16 to 21 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

"Among the countries in Micronesia, we want to take the top. We want to go into higher place than the Guam team in the relays. Oceania countries such as Papua New Guinea will also participate in the relay, so going up as high as possible in the Oceania region is also a target," he said.

As far as national team members' preparation less than a month into the FINA World Swimming Championships, Kimura said training is pretty much the same as usual.

"We don't have any special training and just keep our usual practice this one more month. We've always kept practicing so that we can have an international swim meet at any time even if it is under COVID-19 situation," he said.

The CNMI National Swimming Team has kept practicing with strict infection control measures less than a month to go before the 2021 the FINA World Swimming Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kimura also reminded his swimmers to be cognizant of the rules in FINA-sanctioned meets.

"For CNMI swimmers, it is also necessary to be careful the most about disqualification such as illegal stroke/kick/turn, etc. No matter how fast CNMI swimmer can swim, if the swimmer violates the rules on turn, he/she will be disqualified. Swimming is a sport, so swimming according to the rules is a priority for everyone," he said.

Despite having no Olympic-sized pool to practice in since the closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool more than three years ago, Kimura said he's confident that his wards will perform at a high

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NMBA holds first national championships

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association will make history tomorrow, Friday, as it hosts the inaugural NMI Badminton National Championships at the TSL Sports Complex.

A total of 41 players have signed for this weekend's competition, which is supported by Badminton Oceania. The national championships will have games in the men's and women's open and U19 divisions and will feature singles, doubles, and mixed doubles plays.

"The Northern Marianas Badminton Association is grateful to Badminton Oceania for helping us hold this historic competition. This milestone is made more special by the continued participation of our young players in the NMI," NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said.

The U19 division has drawn 18 players, while 23 have registered for the open category. This will be

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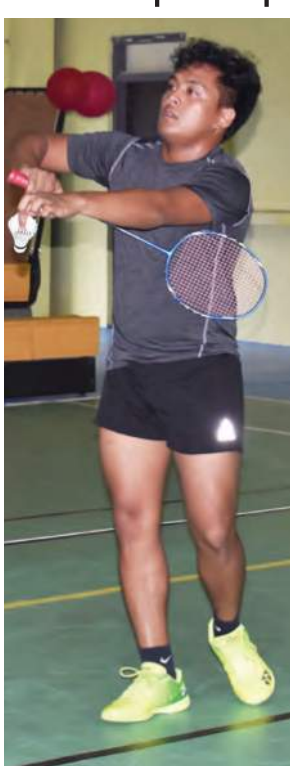

Joseph Torres, seen here serving against Andreau Galvez in their singles game in last month TakeCare Badminton Open at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, will be playing in the inaugural NMI Badminton National Championships this weekend at the TSL Sports Complex. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO